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Iraq

The ministers of Finance and Higher Education and Scientific Research were "relieved of their posts" and a new foreign minister was named in a shakeup announced by INA on 30 July. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi has been replaced by Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, head of the Atomic Energy Organization, as minister of higher education and scientific research; and Majid 'Abd Ja'far has been replaced by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn as minister of finance. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, will replace Husayn as foreign minister, INA noted. In other news, Iraqi intelligence reportedly arrested "a large number" of small merchants and businessmen on charges of hoarding goods, and executed them without trial on 24 July, the clandestine Voice of the Iraqi People disclosed. In a related report, government troops reportedly fired on 10,000 demonstrators who gathered in al-A'zamiyah to protest the merchants' executions, the radio further reported. Baghdad radio cited Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan as saying the government had meted out "fair punishment" to the "greedy merchants who cooperated with the devil."

Israel

Two persons were killed and approximately 40 injured in an explosion at the Israel Military Industries plant in Nof Yam on 30 July, Jerusalem radio reported. The explosion occurred when a "large ammunition depot" in an underground installation ignited "in the course of an experiment." Meanwhile, authorities reopened East Jerusalem's Institute of Arab Studies, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, on 29 July after having shut it down for four years, Jerusalem TV reported. The center had been closed because of "suspected" inflammatory activity, according to the report.

Iran-Lebanon

During his recent visit to Lebanon, Foreign Minister Velayati reportedly gave $30 million to the Hizballah organization, according to an article in the Lebanese magazine AL-MASIRAH cited by the clandestine Voice of Mojahed radio. The article alleges that Iran donates a total of $35 million annually to the Lebanese Hizballah, including "extensive logistical and military assistance."

India

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) was "successfully" ground-tested at the Indian Space Research Organization's center near Kanniyumari on 26 July, Delhi radio reported. The PSLV consists of two engines, each with a 700-kg thrust, and a "full complement" of avionic equipment.

Palestinian Affairs

Editorial Criticizes Baker's Regional Tour

TA2807154692 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Baker's Tour and the Arab Position"]

[Text] When the U.S. announced a new tour by Secretary of State James Baker to the region, it was obvious that this tour would serve Israeli interests—as have previous tours—despite the smokescreen that accompanied this tour suggesting the existence of differences between Washington and Tel Aviv.

Israel gained greatly from the U.S. secretary's tour, the outlines of which will appear during next month's visit to the United States by new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who paved the way for the visit with a series of statements that showed flexibility in tone that differed from those uttered by his predecessor Shamir, which prevented Washington from granting the bank loan guarantees to Israel.

Moreover, Baker's efforts in the Arab capitals that he visited to pressure the Arab leaders into making further concessions in return for the change that occurred in the Israeli language indicate, too, that Baker's tour is no more than an attempt to appease Israel and comply with all its wishes. Those wishes contradict the principles of international law and UN legitimacy.

Thus, in the aftermath of the U.S. secretary's tour of the region, which failed to achieve any notable progress in the peace process, it has become obvious that the U.S. effort was and will remain mortgaged to Israeli wishes. This reality will not be altered by spreading unjustified optimism in the region aimed at deceiving the Arabs that U.S. pressure is being exerted on Israel to force it to change its positions and respond to the requirements of peace. The harsh reality of U.S. behavior is that it is no more than appeasement of Israel at the expense of legitimate Arab rights and international resolutions.

As for the Arab position, the Damascus meetings between the Arab parties taking part in the bilateral negotiations foiled Baker's and Rabin's bets on the possibility of creating a crack in the wall of Arab coordination and signing partial settlements and separate deals on this or that front. The stance proclaimed by the Damascus meetings solidified the Arab position and helped to enhance the status of the Arab negotiators at the upcoming round of negotiations. This will have a positive impact on the overall Arab negotiating performance and in the achievement of legitimate Arab rights.

The Arab parties that took part in the Damascus meetings affirmed that they will not agree to separate or partial solutions, nor will they accept any solution not based on international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. The United States, as the major sponsor of the negotiations, has to understand this position well.

U.S. pressure for making concessions to advance the peace process should be directed at the Israeli side, which refuses to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and continues to obstruct the peace process.

Editorial Stresses PLO Role in Settlement

TA2907141692 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What Does the Israeli 'Request' Mean? What Does the U.S. 'Promise' Mean?"]

[Text] The Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV reported yesterday that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker "promised" that the United States will not resume its contacts with the PLO and that Baker made this "promise" at the request of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. What does this mean? Before answering this question—we admit this is not only simple but naive and any inexperienced politician could answer—we would like to reaffirm the unity of our Palestinian people, in an indivisible and inseparable manner, inside and outside the occupied territories, because there must be a single destiny. This is a national demand that will remain the slogan of consecutive Palestinian generations.

We affirm that the PLO—as both Israel and the United States know—is not only the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories but that political developments following the Madrid conference have confirmed this reality daily.

A fact that should no longer be denied is that no settlement will ever be achieved without the PLO. Any attempt to find a solution without the PLO is tantamount to writing on water, and the cart will remain before the horse.

We return to the question. What does this mean: Israel's "request" that the United States not resume its contacts with the PLO and the latter's "promise" not to do so?

On the Israeli level, it means that the new Israeli Government, headed by Yitzhaq Rabin, is pursuing the policy of the previous one. In this case, by refusing to deal with the PLO, Israel is like an ostrich that buries its head in the sand out of fear that it will see what is happening around it. On the American level, it means that the United States, by continuing to "promise" Israel that it will not hold a dialogue with the PLO, is lacking the necessary credibility to make a genuine peace.

Algeria

Abdesselam Views Economy, Stability—Part 2

LD2907123092 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1938 GMT 28 Jul 92

["Second part" of news conference held by Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam, with national and international correspondents in Algiers on 27 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Okazi, in French] This is Ghania Okazi from the magazine PERSPECTIVES. Mr. Prime Minister, in the present circumstances, when people speak to you about market economics you prefer to use the term colonial economics, and when you speak of the national economy as you did earlier, you spoke of a war economy. If this is the case, how will you proceed with the agreement with the IMF that Mr. Ghozali left on your desk, which has yet to be signed but which stipulates that constraints on foreign trade must be eased, that privatization must take place, that the dinar must be made convertible within 18 months, and that the total liberalization of prices must take place while opting for a consensus that looks after the most disadvantaged? Here is my second question, if you will allow it, Mr. Prime Minister, what is the future of our country's land ownership?

[Abdesselam, in French] The market economy—there are people who say I want to go back to a state-controlled and planned economy. I am concerned by this sort of controversy, because previously, whenever I have had any responsibilities, we have always worked within the framework of a market economy. I believe that Algeria was, to a large extent, in an adequate market economy, but in a market economy that was poor. I believe that achieving a market economy is the crowning of economic development. A policy of economic development that manages to create the conditions of a market economy is a successful policy, but it is also necessary to know which market economy we are speaking of, what we think a market economy consists of.

For me there is no real market economy when there is no free competition. If the conditions for true competition are not in place, the freeing of prices for public or private companies who have a monopoly of the market does not constitute the creation of a market economy, but rather gives companies a favorable situation, and is even a license for mediocrity. In other words, working for a market economy does not just mean freeing prices. The conditions for competition must be created. We must not play on the mentality of some of our compatriots who when they hear market economy think we only need to move to a market economy for the shops to be filled from one day to the next with all the goods that they may desire. [passage omitted] This is not the case. The shops will only be full for some people who will be able to buy what they want, whereas others will only be able to window shop. If that is the sort of market economy that we want we can have it. So I believe a market economy is the crowning achievement of a policy of development, but today I do not see how we can free foreign trade when we have no hard currency and requirements that easily exceed our ability to pay in hard currency. I do not understand what it means to free trade in these conditions. Freeing trade to put ourselves in debt and mortgage ourselves—I do not know if this is true liberalization and where it shall lead.

The agreement, what we call the agreement with the IMF....[Abdesselam changes thought] I know there are contacts with the IMF, and we are moving closer to the IMF. I have spoken about—concerning this agreement—of different approaches, such as the liberalization of foreign trade. I am happy to do this, but with what? Freeing foreign trade means allowing those who want to buy or sell something abroad to sell it here. Do the conditions necessary for this to take place exist? Do the funds to set this up exist? The problem is not whether one is for or against, but to know whether or not we have the means to do it. In this respect I think the facts are such that....[Abdesselam changes thought] They are available, and to quote someone who was not in favor of the market economy, the facts are as stubborn as mules. I am not a Leninist, do not worry, but this is the reality.

The convertibility of the dinar has been spoken of. Is it serious to speak of the convertibility of the dinar in Algeria's present condition? Is it really realistic for people, be they Algerians or from the IMF? These people know what the situation is in Algeria. Is Algeria really in a position today to tell people: bring your dinars and I will convert them into dollars and French francs for you? Unless we bring down the dinar to I-do-not-know-what value, those who have enough dinars to change will be very few in number. I, and I think all Algerians, would be very happy to have a currency in their pockets that would allow them move freely, to cross borders, and to change it anywhere. That is convertibility. I do not know if it has another meaning. What Algerian does not dream of having a convertible dinar in his pocket that would allow him to travel freely? Where shall we find the means to borrow from the IMF, the World Bank, or any other bank, in order to be able to change the dinar? Where will this situation lead? I do not say no. I am only saying how, that is all. If I am provided with the conditions whereby things can be done without further pushing Algeria into financial difficulty, I see no reason to continue. The same applies with the freeing of prices. Can we really totally free prices, including prices that affect the sensitive sectors of the economy, without being able to provide safeguards?

The notion of price control or price fixing is not something we invented in Algeria or something that was invented in the countries formerly called socialist. It is a system that has existed in capitalist countries. It is a system that has regulated the life of capitalist countries since World War II, when European countries had to face the problem of reconstruction to emerge from the ruins of war—material and social ruins. They introduced regulations, they organized, they planned, and they fixed

prices and exchange rates and set up services for currency control, and so on. It took them 50 years to come out of it. It is only in the eighties that the last measures were lifted, for instance, in France with regard to convertibility. It is only in the eighties that the French lifted price controls. After all, apart from the problems it inherited from World War II, France had much less acute problems than Algeria has, as a developing and previously colonized country, to solve all the problems it inherited from the colonial and historical period.

The problem is not whether we are in favor or not...[Abdesselam changes thought] After all people should not take us out of an ideological framework in order to put us in another one. It is not a problem of ideological choice, it is a problem of a choice of means, and it depends on the situation of each country.

Even with regard to the liberalization of foreign trade, do the Algerians agree—all Algerians, not just the civil servants? I keep hearing now, because of contraband [trabando] and because of some things that happened in the past, that we are beginning to have stocks left over, both in the public and private sectors. Everybody is complaining the same way. It is first of all the result of price rises, but it is also the result of some foreign competition. Is protecting one's national production in one's national market something impossible, something outrageous? Why would the Americans have good reason to protect themselves against Japanese competition and why would we not have good reason to protect our national production against foreign competition? Why do the French and the Europeans always protest against Japan? Is economic nationalism allowed only for the big powers and not for others? I say this because I heard people say that economic nationalism does not correspond to anything. Why would it be legitimate for others, for the strongest, and not for us? We should not forget that the advocates of liberalism and free exchanges—this started after World War II, we have noticed it and now I think it is a fact—are in favor of freedom of exchange only if they are certain to gain. After making sure that they meet all the conditions of being the strongest. [Abdesselam switches to Arabic] they say: now let us compete to see who will win. First of all: look at your strength and look at mine. No. [Abdesselam switches to French] Everybody is in favor of competition and everyone makes sure that in this competition they have some assets on their side. The problem is not to shut oneself up and remain isolated from the rest of the world, on the contrary.

At the same time, people must be able to come to our country just as we must be able to go to theirs. If we can go to each other's country, fine. But to keep my home open for you while I am barred from yours is not normal. The conditions for liberalization have to be created; the word liberalization does not frighten us. However, we, as a developing country, can only reach that stage if we secure guarantee of a certain number of assets. We can do it either by using our own means or, equally, through foreign partners. [passage omitted]

I believe we can seek all forms of partnership possible, including, if need be and if accepted, direct investment here at home. There is no reason why that should not be the case as long as we gain something from it. In return, we are ready to effectively provide those who come to our country with what they seek and with what is necessary to encourage them to come, without doing or asking for favors. Economic matters and partnership are built on the balance of advantages and on certain mutual interests. I believe that within that framework, we are ready to examine all possible and conceivable formulas.

But we have to know what we can do at home. If it is strictly a matter of taking over our markets in order to collect the few dollars we are given in return for our oil and gas, I think we have the right to say that we prefer to do otherwise; I think we have the right to say that with the few dollars that we make, $12 billion for a country like Algeria with a population of 25 million people today—Ait El Hocine says that we could reach 18 billion dollars towards the end of the century, is that right?—[passage indistinct] if our current projects are carried out, 18 billion are.... [sentence unfinished as heard] Our situation will improve. However, people tend to forget that in the year 2000, we will be 35 million. Therefore, all these facts, freeing prices, liberalizing external trade, and so forth, all such concepts have to be examined and squared with the realities of Algeria, particularly the realities of foreign debt, demographic explosion, lagging behind in various areas, and so forth.

Now, land ownership. I know that land ownership is also being debated currently. I am going to surprise you here again. In 1978-79, I made a proposal for reviewing the status of lands that at the time were part of the self-managed sector, that is to say, lands claimed back by the state after independence. Generally speaking, I proposed that certain lands be sorted out, and I will not linger on this point, lands that were supposed to be offered for management on an individual basis. [passage omitted]

I believe that in our country there are many people who want to have a portion of land to work. I think that we have to embark on that path. It is necessary to give peasants who want to work the land, how shall I say, a plot that will permit these peasants—in the conditions they face as the plots may differ from one region to another because of reasons of land, climate, etc., etc.—a plot permitting a viable economic unit to exist and permitting the person working it to live properly. But if one has to reason in this form, the plots cannot be very great, cannot be very great [repetition as heard].

And then there is a problem. The land is effectively the foundation for the development of agriculture, but it is also a property whose value may evolve in future. (?It pays you to be ignorant); the value of the land changes with the development of the country, with urbanization etc. What one may give today as a plot for cultivation in order to develop agriculture, may tomorrow become a basis for speculation. It may change into the basis for land speculation. If one day these lands belonging to the

state were to increase greatly in value, who should it go to? To the state or to the person who has taken it? There is a problem here. This problem has to be posed in front of everybody, and people must say whether one solution or another may be suitable. In 1979, I recommended that lands allocated to become small private farms should not be characterized as private property. [passage omitted] The lawmakers decided on 99 rather than 100 years; I don't know why. So, why 99 years I said to myself? So that state property is safeguarded by giving the person who takes on land all possible guarantees that what he may do with the land will not be lost to him, that he can pass it on to his children, that everything will be as if it were his property, but he cannot change the nature of this land.

He has to exploit it as an agricultural land. If ever something else were to happen, then that is a different matter. If there is a development that transforms the nature of the plot and raises a problem of appreciation at the level of the real estate, then we have got something else. The second condition is that the plot or the farm constituted from this plot should not be divided up by inheritance. If the person who receives the plot dies, his heirs must make arrangements to settle the inheritance problem among themselves without having to break up the unit, otherwise we are heading for a break up after one or two generations. The farm must remain viable.

Then I thought that this problem of the property, which raises a debate that is somewhat academic, religious, or whatever, would then have to be settled by people other than us in 99 years. We would have had time to disappear and others would have to settle it, and they will have to settle it in accordance with the prevailing conditions. In any case, they will not have the preoccupations that are paralyzing us at the moment. However, if we reason along these lines, this means that the entire Algerian agriculture, in other words the Algerian agricultural landscape, will be made up of small and medium-sized farms. Is it possible, in a modern country, to live with small farms or just with small holdings? There are perhaps certain categories of crops that are very well suited to the smallholding, particularly market gardening, I believe, or flower growing, or whatever. Certain crops that have very high rates of appreciation could suit the work of an individual or a family and so on. But there are crops that require large areas. The question is: Do we have to give large areas to private owners? If we have to give them, how can we do it? We must decide. Personally, I am not a keen supporter, but if there is a consensus... [changes thought] But people must be clear. I believe that the country needs large areas because some crops are better done in very large farms, with industrial methods, and a form of industrial management. The purpose is not to reintroduce the former self-managed domains; that is not the objective. This is the debate and personally I am not urging people to go one way or another, I prefer that people express themselves openly. We are talking about our national heritage. This is an element we must take into account. There are people who tell you: We fought to recover this land. But, in any case, the choice called socialist in the wake of independence was not dictated by ideology but by the country's considerations, and the considerations of liberation, and the conditions in which the country was liberated.

Who could have imagined in 1962 and 1963 that we would allow ourselves to hand out the settlers' lands to X or Y? Could it have been accepted then? We could only engage ourselves in a form of a more or less collective work. The manner in which this collective work was organized can be criticized. Maybe some people acted deliberately so it would not succeed because many people have worked thinking that they would take over the farm of so and so. [switches to Arabic] This is true and it is still going on.

[Reverts to French] Therefore, I believe that we must find the forms that will help stabilize this sector. We must, because agriculture needs to be stabilized to allow it to work. I think that, in view of the need to populate our rural areas and the need to develop our agriculture, we must revive individual effort and we must revive the private peasant farmer. We must also revive private initiative. We must rationalize the private initiative in this domain, but this must be done within reasonable conditions that do not undermine the balance of our society. However, we must also take into account the demands of a modern economy, which implies the need for large areas, either for cereals, large-scale farming industries, livestock, and so on. I will not get into the details. Here again, we would still need forms of work falling more or less within the framework of enterprises called public but operating according to the rules of private economy, the liberal economy. Otherwise, we should allow the reconstitution of the large private property, but we should know in what conditions and at what price.

This is my position on this problem. I also think that we cannot have the same attitude about the areas in the north, in the Tell—the Tell is what lies on the coast behind the mountains—in the High Plateau, and in the Sahara. I think that in the Sahara, we can adopt... [changes thought] There is no problem of area there, there is a water problem, although in some regions there might be a problem of area because the area is not just the expanse of land, there is also the quality of the land. We must take that into consideration. Even in the Sahara, even where there is virtually nothing, we might realize in the end that the areas that can be of use are not that large. But here again, we should not have a preset idea. So, I think I have replied to your question.

Now I am going to look at the right-hand side. You, Madam. [passage indistinct] So, are you going to make me repeat myself?

[Unidentified journalist in French] No, not at all. Partly, I said, Mr. Belaid Abdesselam, in what way is the man that you are today different from the man you were in the seventies?

[Abdesselam] I beg your pardon?

[Journalist] In what way is the man that you are today different from the man you were in the seventies? This is my first question. The second question: Will the values of democracy, freedom, and a market economy have a place in the action of your government? If that is the case, what will be that place? Third question: The problems of security are very acute these days in the country. You are proposing to the Algerians more austerity; do you think that you will be able to preserve a stability already being shaken by the daily breaches of public order and security? Thank you.

[Abdesselam] Well, as regards the man I am today and the man I was in the seventies: In the seventies I was less than fifty years of age and today I am 64. It is after all 14 extra years. This difference is after all significant. [laughter]

As regards the democratic values and the individual liberties, I think that whatever the form of the regime under which a society or a state lives, the natural and normal evolution is to end up with a regime where democratic values and individual and collective liberties are affirmed. Even a dictatorship can only be a transitional regime in the life of a people. History will judge a dictatorship by what it has produced. If it leads to a situation that in the end favors—after perhaps some upheavals—the free play of democracy, it will have been a dictatorship that succeeded. If it leads to a situation where there is disorder and anarchy, it will not have succeeded. A democracy that is based on individual liberties and democratic plurality, but which leads to a situation that scraps these liberties and leads to the emergence of dictatorship, this democracy will not have succeeded.

I think that, as far as we are concerned, by working towards a balanced society, a society from which the factors of discord and imbalance are eliminated, we will be working to bring out the real base of a true democracy where individual and collective liberties will be consolidated.

I think I have replied on a market economy. There is not much to add to what I have said. I think I have also spoken about the problems of security. I would simply like to point out that it is not only the security services that have to assume responsibility for the problems of security. The security services are doing a remarkable job, they have paid a very heavy price in dealing with this problem, but the problem cannot be theirs alone. It is necessary for the Algerians as a whole to take this problem in hand through their work, through their social work, through each person's work with his people, with his friends, his acquaintances, and his neighbors in such a way that, as I said in my earlier statement, the blood of Algerians stops being spilled through the acts of other Algerians.

I have laid sufficient stress before you on the seriousness of the situation experienced by the country. I think that if everyone is mobilized to make Algerians aware of the seriousness of our country's situation, I believe we shall create the necessary conditions to permit civil peace, social peace, to be reestablished. I think that whether one likes it or not, things are changing in Algeria. They are changing within the men, but finally none of us can claim to be the bearer of a special doctrine or prophecy or mission. We are men like any other men. But whether one likes it or not, I think that the country is starting, little by little, to progress towards taking charge of the problems of the greatest number, problems of the most destitute, national problems, problems of national dignity. I think that if certain people have been able to find in the past, even the recent past, reasons for rebelling, sometimes even for waging extreme actions, I believe that the sense of the national interest should lead them to say that if an effort is all the same made, however small, toward solving the national problems, they should not hinder it, they should encourage it, they should make a gesture of encouraging this effort and of permitting national cohesion to be found again.

That is the problem of security. It is clear that in all cases the government and the security services shall continue to firmly ensure everybody's security and respect for the state, but this should at least be done with the hope that the reforms in this area are implemented as quickly as possible. Basically, that is what I think about that. [Abdesselam switches to Arabic] I stress that my wish is that our mosques should be a place where one says prayers; a place for uniting; a place for prayers for good; prayers for reconciliation over the national issues; or just prayers. Even when we have problems among ourselves, we should forget them. Why we should forget them? It is because there is danger. There is a greater danger, or a bigger danger, than the problems over which we are divided or the solutions that the homeland demands. Getting closer to one another is possible by putting aside some of the problems.

We wish that only one voice be heard in our mosques—that of the faithful. This means that we should leave mosques for the worship of God and that before we enter them we leave out the things that divide us. We should make mosques a climate for healing wounds. [reverts to French] We must review the things that have torn us apart, and we must try to reconcile them.

We must not make our mosques starting points for fires; places where every Friday we make a spectacle of ourselves while we (?quarrel) among ourselves or make the news with clashes between us and the security services. In any event, these services have a task they must carry out while others mount attacks on them. Why?

Things have changed in the country. There is a development and a new trend about to emerge. However, we call upon all Algerians to look at this government; to look at this state of affairs in which we find ourselves; to look at the efforts, at the issues, at the fact that their country is being given away as collateral—or nearly so—and that their country is in need of the efforts of the entire nation.

There is no doubt that the problems in which we find ourselves are not problems that can be solved by one person, a group, or a party, or anything else. All the people must unite. (?We are not) really in a state of war, but a (?war) problem, a vital problem. In this way we can arrive at solving the problem.

[Rabah Khoudri, MBC TV] Mr. Prime Minister, in his letter of resignation Sid Ahmed Ghozali explained the reasons which led to the failure of his government. What are the instruments in the possession of Belaid Abdesselam's government which Sid Ahmed Ghozali did not have before? This is the first question. The second question is what is your position about the trial of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front? Third, what do you think about the preliminary results of the investigation carried out into the assassination of the late Mohamed Boudiaf? Thank you.

[Abdesselam] Regarding the statement made by brother Sid Ahmed Ghozali, I did not form my government in comparison with what is now seen as his problems. In any case, everybody is responsible for the situation they find themselves in [as heard]. So, it was proposed to me to form a government and I did just that. I am continuing my work and I will see, in the field, whether the conditions for work are available or not without comparing my situation with that of anybody else, even if it is that of Sid Ahmed Ghozali, who is very close to me, as you well know.

Concerning the trial of the group in Blida, I think that some events took place in the country and the jucidiary passed its judgement and I do not have the right, as the official in charge of this government, to interpret or say anything about the sentences. [Switches to French] In our system, we cannot comment on a decision made by the judiciary. [Reverts to Arabic] I believe that the case is not closed since there is an appeal, from both sides I think. Things are continuing. There are events in the country and I think that it is natural that the courts take charge. Matters are running their course.

With regard to Annaba, I also believe that the responsibility requires that I do not get involved in such a situation. What I can see is that the investigation was conducted in satisfactory conditions. Judging by the way this commission, which is made up of nationalists, loyal and independent people, worked, I think that the results they gave and the method of work they adopted prove that they are on the path of truth.

[Switches to French] Have they reached the path of truth, are they going to reach it? [Reverts to Arabic] Their work is not over yet. I think that it is preferable to let this case, this investigation, continue its course, as it has already begun. We should not complicate matters for the brothers who have this responsibility, this huge responsibility before God and before the homeland and their conscience. Consequently, I believe that the results they gave and the method of work they adopted are very encouraging and reflect the best traditions of the country. I am extremely happy with this work.

[Mabrouki Slimane, national radio] I have one question: What does the prime minister think about the issue of the security centers in the south, and how will he solve it?

[Abdesselam] I think that no Algerian leader can be happy about the existence of such centers in his country, and no Algerian official or citizen can be happy about the existence of these centers in his country. Our objective, or rather our wish, is to remove these centers and to return to the conditions of a normal life in the country. We had better reach this goal as soon as possible, but this does not depend only on the will of the government and the security officials, it also depends on other parties. It depends in fact on the restoration of tranquillity and security in the country. If these conditions are met, I believe that these centers will be removed. This does not exclude the fact that at the moment some measures perhaps need to be taken in order to reduce the discomfort or improve the situation of the people who are inside these centers. However, our intention is to reach the end of this operation as soon as possible. It all depends on how things develop in the field of the maintenance of law and order in the country.

[Hassan Zenati, AFP; in French] You are neither in favor of the rescheduling of the debt nor of its restructuring. Are you in favor of a repayment of the entire debt, or are you in favor of a partial repayment, or in favor of a moratorium on this debt to wait until Algeria's economic conditions improve and until its balance of payments improves? Second, you have in front of you specific settlement dates, as a result of the current negotiations with the IMF. In a few days, you will have to opt for one of the choices offered to you by the IMF, all of which would lead to a fairly significant devaluation of the national currency, in return for a continuation of the financial aid for the Algerian economy. What is the reply you are going to give to these negotiations, and what do you think the outcome of these negotiations is going to be?

[Abdesselam, in French] Indeed, as you say, I am neither in favor of rescheduling, nor this or that. I am in favor of a solution that enables us to get rid of this debt as soon as possible. But, in the meantime, if there are solutions that might help alleviate the burden and might help us get out of the crisis without great pain, I will not be against it and I will promote them. However, I cannot accept a solution that in the end perpetuates this situation. This is why at this stage of the development of this question I am not excluding anything, and I am not putting forward anything. I keep an open mind and I keep the debate open. But as I said at the beginning of my remarks, let no one expect me to make the most deprived masses pay any more.

With regard to what you call the specific repayment dates that are coming up, there again, whatever happens, I will not agree to discuss anything with a knife at my

throat. This problem is not between myself and the IMF, it is between myself and the Algerians. It is up to the Algerians to say whether they agree that we should give in to this, or whether, in order to hold out, we need to act differently.

With regard to devaluation, here again I do not have a dogmatic position. I quite simply ask what purpose such a devaluation would serve. I have had the opportunity to express my opinion on this in the past, and I have no reason to change my point of view. In Algeria's case and in Algeria's situation, devaluation does not answer the usual criteria that justify devaluation in other countries. [passage omitted] In Algeria's case, our exports are paid in dollars, so whether we devalue or not this has absolutely no effect. In Algeria, if we devalue we are going to make the products we import more expensive. Well, if it is a question of reducing imports, we will reduce them. We can embark on a state policy to reduce them to the strict minimum, and the strict minimum we maintain is what is necessary for people's lives. [passage omitted] I am prepared to devalue by 8 percent, and people will say to me, what is the use of that and what does that do for me? But with devaluation aimed, as the economists say, at reducing demand, what does that mean? It means that people will buy less. And why will they be buying less? Because they will have less money, they will be poorer. So we are going to impoverish them. If it is a matter of taking away income from people who have it, if it is a technical process or a magic wave of the wand that would make it possible to take away from those who can still give, then I am quite willing. But to hit everyone in the same way like that, I believe that is too much. [passage omitted]

Then, if by devaluating we can favor the expansion of this market, it can be acceptable. But I do not want us to embark on a policy aimed in the end at simply satisfying perhaps a theoretical idea, an ideological demand, or an ideological model. This is why I think, therefore, that our partners must take into account our situation. As I have said, we have resources and we are a market and we are prepared to cooperate with them. I do not see what interest they could draw from a disintegrated Algeria. What interest would they draw from an Algeria that could no longer recover, that would no longer have any bases to live on?

I think that our partners must take this into account. Successful negotiations can only be negotiations where each partner takes into account the position of the other partner. I have the impression that if it is not the leaders of some countries, certain decision-making centers in certain countries and certain men in certain countries or certain institutions, think that Algeria is now ripe to accept anything; that the revolutionary Algeria, the Algeria of the FLN, the Algeria of 1 November [1954], the Algeria of the Nonaligned Movement, and so on, has now been caught, trapped in the net, and can be made to swallow anything. I believe that this is a mistake because the Algerian people have demonstrated, in any case, that they are not dupes. They have had the opportunity to show several times that they will not accept such treatment. I also think that the Algerians will after all mobilize for their country's salvation and will accept the sacrifices necessary to save their country. And—I do not want to exaggerate—they will not forgive those who sought to take advantage of their temporary difficulties to humiliate them and to wrest from them in the end a price exceeding what they can pay.

I think that you have taken me a bit through all the questions concerning the national life, and I realize that I have not told you everything. Therefore, I hope that one day I will be able to meet you again and discuss in depth the questions concerning the national life. In two or nearly three hours, we cannot say everything. So, I apologize if I have not said everything.

[Abdesselam switches to Arabic] To say it briefly, I apologize if in this round-up of about three hours covering the questions you have raised we did not cover all the issues—or to be precise, the desired subjects. We, however, believe that we talked about the important, or most important, ones. However, I must point out myself that there were a few things with regard to the papers and the ideas I should have had time to talk about today, like information and figures. But it does not matter; they will be a reason for seizing another opportunity in which we can meet and probably talk about the things in much more detail than today. In any case, this is the first meeting. But as for the relations with the newsmen, from all angles they should be satisfactory and should remain in the service of the country and in the service of the public interest. We wish this for all the Algerians—and not just for newsmen. But the situation existing in the country today requires from us a complete vigilance particularly in respect of foreign machinations.

Algerians in years past were accustomed to meet with all the people. They used to go to some embassies. They frequented some embassies, they were not newsmen. It was more the persons who were engaged in the institutions of the state. Every official and every one who has a little national honor, every one who has a little national dignity, should know when he stands in front of the foreign embassies that they represent their own governments and they serve their own interest. In any case, he should know what goes on between us, and they try to interfere.

I am not one of those who like to say that the foreigners should be secluded, but I think that there have been too many leaks. It does not matter if among ourselves we talk about things, but if we want to serve our homeland, the foreigner must be made to understand or made to feel everywhere that there is something here that is moving. There is something moving; there is something new. There are people who have been saying that he is a man of the past, or, really, these are the men of past, or we have gone back to the past.

Brothers, I say it in front of you. I am proud of my past and the past of my country. I do not hate my past and I

do not deny my past. But the past is the past that liberated us. It is the past that made us raise our heads. The methods of work have changed. The world has changed. Things have changed. But patriotism is still the same. The past still remains as a symbol. It used to be an example. However, the world has changed. We are proud of our Algeria. We are proud of our past.

I am not afraid if someone says that I am a man of the past. It is my past. What can you say about it. We are not embarrassed. These people say: They are men of the past. Where did they get this idea: the men of the past? What planted it in their heads? It was planted in their heads by people who have a hatred for this past and who seek revenge from it.

Be vigilant. We all should be vigilant. We do not want to enter in the game of people who in the end do not wish us well.

In any case, we have talked. I am the prime minister and you are newsmen, but in the final analysis we are speaking as Algerians. This is our country. These are our problems. We should discuss things among ourselves. Every one of us must work in the spirit of responsibility. All the people seek freedom and demand freedom. Yes to freedom. But we must understand that even in the democratic countries, the advanced countries, freedom entails responsibility. They always tell you to associate freedom with responsibility.

Freedom requires responsibility. Freedom without responsibility is anarchy. It kills everything. It dies itself. It kills itself. What is required is that we serve freedom and serve democracy and serve dignity, but in the spirit of responsibility. If we proceed in this way, then God will give us all success.

Peace and blessing and mercy of God be upon you.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Comments on Peace Process, Iraq

NC2907150292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1233 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 29 Jul (MENA)—Speaking to news reporters in Alexandria today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed hope that the Middle East peace process will be resumed soon on a clear basis and with mutual goodwill.

Musa said that the statement that five Arab foreign ministers issued recently in Damascus should be read carefully, for it calls for a collective contribution of the five countries in the peace process. The statement, Musa said, focuses on the willingness of the Arab side to reach agreement with Israel if the latter upholds UN Security Council Resolution 242, the principle of land for peace, and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Musa said that the recent remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given an impetus to the peace process, one that we hope will continue.

The Egyptian foreign minister recalled that the policy of the former Israeli government under Yitzhaq Shamir toward the peace process was based on procrastination and deception, expressing his hope that this policy will be a thing of the past.

Concerning the current crisis between Iraq and the United Nations, Musa expressed his hope that the crisis will be resolved in a way that allows Iraq to preserve its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity. He noted that Iraq is going through unusual circumstances due to the repercussions of its aggression against Kuwait.

Minister Musa said: We hope that the crisis will end quietly with Iraq declaring its commitment to the UN resolutions on the basis of the principles stated by the head of the UN inspection team.

Sees 'New Possibilities' for Peace

NC2807102092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0904 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Beirut, 28 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that Egypt's stand on the peace process relies on many elements and constants, and that Egypt is committed to the Arab policy. It has relations with Israel and can employ all available diplomatic and political means to help the peace process.

In a statement to the private Lebanese radio Sawt al-Watan, he said the new Israeli Government is different from the former one and thus new possibilities have emerged. Though they might not be adequate, he added, these possibilities are at least enough to launch a peace process different from the one in which we experienced much procrastination and cunning.

Musa noted that the issue is not one of pressure, but of contacts. He said he and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin discussed Resolution 425 on withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the need to solve the Lebanese problem exactly as the Palestinian and Syrian problems should be solved.

AL-AKHBAR Sees Nothing Changed in Israel

NC2907160392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0638 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—In today's editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that those following world media reports on the situation in the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon cannot believe that Yitzhaq Shamir, Likud Bloc leader and former Israeli prime minister, has left his post or taken a back seat before retiring from politics. Observers cannot believe there is a new government in Tel Aviv, with a prime minister announcing day and

night that his policy is based on negotiations with the Arabs and on solving the Palestinians' autonomy problems in weeks or months.

The paper adds: Nothing has changed, at least so far, in the way the people of the occupied territories in Palestine are being treated or in the terrorist climate the sons of southern Lebanon are experiencing. Bullets still echo throughout Palestinian cities and villages, children and youths still fall, arrests and deportations continue full swing, and Israeli aircraft bombard southern Lebanon, causing death and destruction, without deterrent.

It would appear, AL-AKHBAR says, that new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's current preoccupation with writing poems of love of peace and peaceful coexistence does not leave him enough time to read the news of the nonstop acts of aggression by the Israeli forces. Perhaps the Israeli Defense Ministry has become an independent state unconcerned with the prime minister's statements that he yearns for peace. It continues to perform the task assigned to it by former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Concluding, AL-AKHBAR says: It is an odd situation in which nothing has changed but words. Actions remain the same, suggesting no change in the policy of the Israeli Government, which is, apparently, satisfied merely to replace the banner bearing the names of Shamir, Sharon, and Arens with one bearing the names of Rabin, Shim'on Peres, and their partners.

U.S. Trying To 'Fabricate Crisis' in Iraq

NC2907155392 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Jul 92 p 8

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah]

[Text] America's recourse to threatening another military strike against Iraq on the pretext that the Iraqi authorities have refused to allow UN inspectors to search for documents in the Agriculture Ministry building in Baghdad reminds one of the story about the wolf that decided to gobble up the lamb as a punishment for disturbing the water. We are not opposed to the wolf devouring Saddam Husayn and the entire Iraqi leadership, if it can. The United States is to some extent responsible for letting Saddam become this monster and enabling him to weigh on the Iraqi people since he took power.

What the United States is doing and its sudden interest in a stack of papers that no one knows the contents of rightfully strikes the people of the region as arbitrary use of the UN sanctions against Iraq. It seems a deliberate attempt to fabricate a crisis to justify the use of military force out of place and time. This would only mobilize the Iraqi people behind Saddam, arouse sympathy for him, and enhance the rallying around him on the assumption that he was defending the Iraqi people's dignity and sovereignty.

When the British envoy at the United Nations says that a military measure can be taken against Iraq without a Security Council resolution and on the basis of previous resolutions, one is astonished at the degree of provocation and conceit. At a time when the United Nations and the Security Council have failed to adopt a resolution on a brutish and aggressive war against the Muslims in Bosnia, and when President Bush declares his hesitation and inability to interfere to stop the ongoing massacres there, military measures remain legitimate against an Arab country. Such military measures are used like a drug taken every time it is needed just for the sake of a handful of papers said to contain military information.

Perhaps this is the first time in the history of the United Nation that military sanctions are being used because a country has hidden some documents said to contain secrets and programs on the production of Iraqi missiles. Hiding the papers and documents cannot serve as a justification to mass fleets and aircraft and threaten air strikes. It is not an impossible task to remove documents so why insist on searching the building?

Certain people say that Bush needs a military operation in the Gulf to restore the American people's support in his election campaign. Such thinking is fraught with danger and will lead to the opposite results, which would only benefit Saddam and obstruct the peace efforts in the region. We have an adage that says if something exceeds limits it backfires. Perhaps the United States and the sane among us will consider this adage.

Sudanese Stand on Hala'ib Dispute Questioned

NC2907201392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—An official Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that the Sudanese Foreign Ministry under secretary made a statement on 26 July in which he dealt with the legal status of the Hala'ib-Shalatayn triangle. The spokesman stressed that this statement is inconsistent with established facts and does not conform with international law or international charters.

In a statement this evening, the spokesman said that this statement fundamentally conflicts with the provisions of the 1899 agreement, which demarcated Sudan's northern border absolutely and unambiguously, confirming that this region is an indivisible part of Egyptian territory.

The spokesman said that this statement raises questions about the Sudanese Government's good intentions regarding the invitation it addressed to Egypt—and to which Egypt responded—to settle this issue cordially in accordance with firm legal procedures and in line with the brotherly relations between the two countries and peoples.

The spokesman explained that with regard to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry under secretary's statement

that Sudan will pursue other means to resolve the dispute, the Egyptian Government stresses that the Sudanese Government is responsible for hinting at these means. It is natural and logical for Egypt to resort to the same means if the Sudanese Government reneges on its previous pledges.

World Bank Grants $36 Million Easy-Term Loan

NC3007111892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Washington, 30 Jul (MENA)—Egypt and the World Bank have signed two agreements according to which Egypt will receive easy-term loans amounting to more than $36 million to be used in implementing the economic reform program and combating bilharzia.

The two agreements were signed by Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir al-Sayyid and Harriender Coley, deputy president of the World Bank [name and title as received].

The first agreement stipulates that the World Bank will grant Egypt a loan of $9.2 million with easy terms to be used to implement the economic reform project to develop banks and businesses and help the transformation to the private sector.

The second agreement stipulates that the bank will present a loan to Egypt amounting to $27.4 million, also on easy terms to be used for combating bilharzia.

Dayrut Islamic Group Leader Interviewed

NC2807175392 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 21 Jul 92 p 10

[Report on an interview with an unidentified leader of the Islamic Group in Dayrut by an unidentified AL-SAFIR correspondent; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Meeting with members of the Islamic Group is not easy due to the large number of security forces trying to capture them. The meeting had to be held away from their eye, which is not all that difficult because the organization still move freely due to the security measures they follow. The meeting took place at night. After a drive that took me in several different directions, we stopped in front of an old house. We were surprised by four bearded men who abruptly closed the door behind us. We met the leader of the Islamic Group in Asyut, who, for security reasons, stipulated that he was to remain anonymous. Here is the interview:

[AL-SAFIR] Who are you?

[Islamic Group leader] We are an organization called the Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah]. The media calls us the al-Jihad Organization. The reason for this mix-up in names is because we cooperated with the al-Jihad Organization when we assassinated al-Sadat on 6 October 1981. The Islamic Group and the al-Jihad Organization united in 1979 after a dialogue among three Islamic Group leaders—Najih Ibrahim, Karam Zuhayri, and Fu'ad al- Dawalibi—and two al-Jihad Organization leaders—Muhammad 'Abd- al-Salam Faraj and Faraj 'Abbud al-Zumur—in Upper Egypt. The organizations united and assassinated al-Sadat. They split in 1984 because of differences over jurisprudential and practical issues. The Islamic Group is considered to be the most powerful group in Upper Egypt. In addition, it wields a lot of influence in several areas in Lower Egypt and Cairo. Our ideology is basically founded on two ideas: Jihad as a sixth duty [reference to the five pillars of Islam] of a Muslim that Muslims do not perform, and the non- Islamic society. We believe that there is a need for jihad to change the non-Islamic society and establish an Islamic state. Our method is similar to that of the Islamic movement in Iran, namely, popular Islamic revolution. We are responsible for the assassination of a number of policemen and state officials, foremost of whom was former People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub. We also killed Dr. Faraj Fudah last month.

Asked about the Dayrut incidents, the Islamic Group leader said: "The security forces are basically responsible for these incidents. They killed three Islamic Group leaders in the attack on al-Sa'ih mosque in 1990. They also killed five members, most importantly Shaykh 'Arafah Darwish, the Islamic Group's leader in Dayrut, at the pulpit of Sanabu mosque a week ago. The security forces are seeking to tighten the noose around the Islamic Group's activity, close our mosques, and arrest our supporters."

[AL-SAFIR] What have the Christians done? Why are you killing them?

[Islamic Group leader] To begin with, we are not killing Christians. Some Christians were killed by the public in vendetta actions, something that is a common practice in Upper Egypt. Two Muslims were killed by a Christian on 9 March so the victims' families took revenge and killed a number of Christians. Members of the Islamic Group took part in the vendetta because they belong to the same family. Two Christians were killed on 20 June by the public, who were angry when the security forces killed Islamic Group leader 'Arafah Darwish; they believed that a Christian policeman killed him.

Asked his views on the police statement that the security forces have crushed the Islamic Group in Dayrut, the leader said: "The police are deluding themselves if they believe that they have done that. The police brought in about 10,000 soldiers, including antiterrorist forces, special forces, etc. However, they failed to arrest prominent members of the Islamic Group. Our losses were limited. They arrested 30 members none of whom is a leader. They only seized a small number of weapons. The police raid villages in search for members, unaware that they have left Dayrut. The security forces try to show the people that they are strong by flexing their muscles. How long can they continue deploying a force this large? The

forces brought from Cairo and other governorates will have to be withdrawn because we are active in those places as well, places like al-Minya, Imbabah, al-Jizah, Damietta, and 'Ayn Shams."

The Islamic Group leader said: "The security forces' attempt to uproot us will fail simply because we are part of the people in the villages. We have established an Islamic society to which the people have bound themselves. The social work groups formed by the Islamic Group in every village are responsible for all activities. We solve people's problems, help them ease their economic problems, and preach them about true Islam. We will return to our villages and the people will be waiting for us. How, then, have the security succeed destroyed us? We are an organization over a number of large areas. Our leadership has acquired hard-fought experience."

He added: "The security forces tried everything, killing more than 50 members in two years, raiding and closing mosques, and arresting scores of our members for many years. Despite all their efforts, the Islamic Group is still strong. Proof of this is the fact that the Asyut police force could not control the Islamic Group wing in Dayrut along. They had to get help from police forces from four governorates and the largest police brigade in the region."

[AL-SAFIR] You are accused of being terrorists.

[Islamic Group leader] Terrorism is practiced by the state. It kills, incarcerates, raids mosques, and denies us jobs. What we are doing is reacting to the state's terrorism. Violence only breeds violence.

[AL-SAFIR] You admitted that the Islamic Groups assassinated Faraj Fudah, who is not a state official. Please explain this.

[Islamic Group leader] He was killed in accordance with the shari'ah ruling against apostates. A group of Muslim ulema, including al-Azhar Mosque scholars, ruled that he reneged on Islam and shari'ah entitles a devout Islamic group to implement its provisions since the ruler is an atheist. Killing Faraj Fudah was our Islamic duty.

[AL-SAFIR] Faraj Fudah was a thinker who did not use weapons to confront you. Would you confront ideas with arms?

[Islamic Group leader] Untrue. Fudah was not a thinker exercising the right of free speech. All that he wrote abused Islam and Muslims. Is slandering thinking? Is what at issue the freedom of thinking or freedom to propound atheism? He accused Ibn-'Abbas [reference to an ancient Muslim leader] of thievery, declared that the Islamic shari'ah is not fit for this society, and accused Muslim imams of being homosexuals. He said that the Islamic Group's behavior is motivated by sex, claiming that the group banned the eating of zucchini and eggplant because they resemble the male organ and are, therefore, tempting. [passage omitted]

Al-Jihad Clash at Dayrut Checkpoint Reported

NC2907195792 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 1

[Excerpts] Al-Jihad Organization members clashed with night checkpoint staff on a main road near Dayrut late at night on 26 July. The personnel manning the checkpoint returned fire and the terrorists escaped.

This is the second such incident in 48 hours. Al-Jihad members attacked the guards of Dayrut's al-Islah Church two days ago. [passage omitted]

Security authorities found antiregime pamphlets and explosive charges in a number of houses the police forces stormed in the past few hours. Several persons suspected of involvement in firing on the al-Islah Church guard in Dayrut also were arrested.

Police Conduct Further House-to-House Searches

NC2907191192 Paris AFP in English 1737 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Dayrut, Egypt, July 29 (AFP)—Egyptian police ringed this fundamentalist stronghold in southern Egypt Wednesday for the third consecutive day and conducted house-to-house searches for Islamic extremists.

The body of an Islamic militant was meanwhile found in a field, two kilometers (1.2 miles) from Dayrut amid charges from his wife that he had been killed in cold blood by police following his arrest Monday.

But officials said that Jamal Kamil 'Abd-al-Sabur was killed in a clash with police, the newspaper AL-AHRAM Al-MASA'I reported.

"It will never be Algeria here," a senior police official warned in reference to the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in Algeria. He said that President Husni Mubarak was closely monitoring developments in Dayrut.

Mubarak is determined to "get it over with by all means," the official added.

Extremists mounted raids Monday against a police station, the court and the public prosecutor's building, killing a policeman and a boy, and wounding three people.

Armed police, backed by tanks, patrolled the streets of Dayrut ready to pull the trigger as most of the 60,000 inhabitants stayed at home, an AFP correspondent said.

Residents feared being caught in cross-fire or rounded up by police who stopped and searched passers-by, including an army officer in uniform, he added.

Reinforcements, including helicopters, were to be dispatched to the trouble zone soon, the police official who declined to be identified told AFP.

The helicopters will be used to track down suspect Islamic extremists who could be hiding in corn fields or in caverns on the other side of the Nile, the official said.

Police have arrested six Islamic militants since Monday and were still holding them in custody Wednesday in line with new anti- terrorist measures, under which detention can extend to 11 days.

Overnight Monday 2,000 riot police were dispatched to Dayrut following the appointment of police inspector General Abd-al-Wahab al-Hilali, who had recently succeeded in squashing fundamentalist unrest in the village of al-Fayyum.

A total of 33 people have been killed in Upper Egypt since March, including 12 Islamic extremists and 15 Christian Copts. Five policemen and one civilian have also died in the violence that has gripped southern Egypt.

Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa declared Sunday that 73 extremists had been arrested in connection with violence in and around Dayrut since March and that order had been restored.

One of those arrested is Jamal Farghali Haridi, believed to be the mastermind of militant Islamic attacks in the Asyut district mainly against Coptic Christians and police.

Al-Jihad Members Arrested at Seaport

NC2907163392 Cairo MAYU in Arabic
27 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has stated that a number of al-Jihad group members have been arrested at an Egyptian seaport following their return from Afghanistan, where they participated in the fighting.

The minister said that interrogation of the defendants will reveal several facts about the al-Jihad group.

The minister described Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, military commander of al-Jihad, as a murderer, hireling, and impostor, adding that 'Abd-al-Ghani's remarks about the strength of the returnees from Afghanistan is nonsense.

The minister stressed that Egypt is a secure country. He said: We are not afraid of anyone. We are able to deter and confront anyone who breaks the law.

Kuwait

Iraqi Intelligence Said Behind 'Terrorist Ring'

PM2807114192 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 3

[Anwar al-Yasin report: "Interior Minister Confirms to SAWT AL-KUWAYT: Nobody Is Exempt From Payment of Residence Violation Fines. Iraqi Intelligence Behind Terrorist Ring"]

[Excerpts] London— Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud has confirmed that Iraqi intelligence was behind the terrorist ring recently arrested by the security authorities.

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday the interior minister said that the public's and the residents' cooperation with the security authorities facilitated the capture of the terrorist ring's members. He urged honorable Kuwaitis to help the security authorities by passing on whatever information they may have, however small. He stressed that the security organs are alert and watchful in the interest of public security and safety and would apprehend anyone who contemplates undermining the country's security and stability.

The interior minister also said that his ministry believes that the media play an important role in explaining the facts to the public, "but the media are requested to be accurate and refrain from exaggeration."

He said that the ministry will not exempt anyone from the payment of fines for delays in submitting papers required for completion of residence permits to the Immigration Department. [passage omitted]

He added: "We are a state which respects and implements the law. It would be illogical to bypass the law on this matter. Nobody should continue to reside in this country illegally."

The interior minister also said: "Some residents had asked to leave Kuwait and received all that was due to them more than four months ago, but they are still trying to remain in Kuwait illegally or are trying to get work permits by other means. We will not allow that. Whoever sought an exit permit and got what was due to him from his employers must leave." [passage omitted]

Force Deemed 'Only Solution' to Iraqi Defiance

PM2907142292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Jul 92 p 1

[Article by Muhammad al-Rumayhi: "Downfall of the Tyrant Is the Solution"]

[Excerpts] We in Kuwait knew all along that the Baghdad regime would not stop defying the international community and would not stop its procrastination regarding implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Hence the amir's world tour on a mission of right and justice calling on the whole world to put more effective pressure on the Baghdad tyrants to make them abide by the UN resolutions. [passage omitted] We in Kuwait knew that only force would deter that regime.

That is exactly what the recent crisis has demonstrated. The crisis escalated to the point that the world was waiting with bated breath for the international community's ultimatum to Baghdad to expire and for that regime to be deterred by force—the only language the Baghdad tyrant understands. What happened is exactly what we had expected. We have frequently said that there can be no stability in the region unless the Iraqi regime falls. Now the whole international community is beginning to see that we are right. U.S. President George Bush has clearly said that Iraq's agreement to allow UN inspectors into the Agriculture Ministry is not enough and does not change anything with regard to Saddam Husayn, who must abide by the UN resolutions, accept the border demarcation, release the POW's, and stop the massacres against his people in the North and South. Some of the U.S. President's senior aides go so far as to say that the UN inspectors crisis is the tip of the iceberg constituted by the entire record of Saddam Husayn's violations of UN resolutions and defiance of the international community, and that the use of force is the only way to compel Iraq to respect the international community. That is what we have said all along. There will be no stability in the Arab region without the downfall of the Baghdad regime. [passage omitted]

Jordanians, Lebanese Sentenced for Collaborating

LD2807171492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 28 Jul (KUNA)—The state security tribunal has today acquitted seven people and dropped charges against them of cooperating with the Iraqi regime to launch the so-called AL-NIDA were dropped.

The tribunal convicted three people in the same case who were given jail sentences of 10-15 years. The Iraqi forces had launched the so-called AL-NIDA newspaper within their attempts to entrench their occupation of Kuwait.

The acquittal included four people of Jordanian nationality. They are: Ahmad 'Arif Sa'id, 26 years old, Wasfi Ahmad 'Atiyyah, 38 years old, Ibrahim Ahmad Sa'd, 50 years old, and Ma'ruf Shafiq 'Abduh, 50 years old, in addition to two Lebanese: Khalil Muhammad Shams al-Dine, 25 years old, and Faruq Ilias 'Abd-al-Masih, 59 years old.

The defense had rejected the charges against its clients saying that they were forced to work for the paper by the occupation forces. The defense also said that they were technical staff who had no role in running or publishing the paper.

The tribunal also handed down the following jail sentences: Bassam Fu'ad Abiad, Lebanese, 41 years old, 15

years; Mufid Mustafa 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian, [age indistinct] 10 years; and Ghazi al-Dine, Jordanian, 58 years old, 10 years. The tribunal also fined each one of them the sum of 2,000 Kuwaiti dinars and ordered their deportation once the sentences have been served.

The state security prosecution had charged the accused above with intervening for the Iraqi forces by contributing to the publication of the so-called AL-NADA newspaper and to the publication of false reports and communiques, of sensational propaganda for the Iraqi occupation authorities and with receiving money from them in order to harm Kuwait's national interests.

The prosecution also charged the accused Bassam Abyad of joining the so-called Iraqi popular army. On the other hand, the tribunal acquitted the named Ghani Thamir, of indeterminate nationality, who had been accused of joining the Iraqi popular army. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Given Life Sentence

LD2907144292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1338 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Jul (KUNA)—The State Security Court today sentenced 'Umar Mahmud, a Jordanian national, to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of having cooperated with the Iraqi occupation forces and having led their intelligence corps to some members of the Kuwaiti resistance.

Heir Apparent Receives Message From Iran

LD2907191992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1256 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait, 29 July KUNA—The heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, this morning received a message from Iranian First Vice President Dr Hasan Habibi. It was stated that the message included "the consolidation of the close relations and constructive cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim countries, and the latest developments in the region," and also dealt with "an invitation to Shaykh Sa'ad to pay an official visit to Iran."

The message was delivered by Under Secretary of the Iranian Interior Ministry Mohamed Attarianfar during a meeting with Shaykh Sa'ad in Kuwait this morning.

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh 'Appreciates' U.S., UN Measures in Region

LD2907220892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1546 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, 29 Jul (SPA)—A responsible source gave the following statement to SPA today:

Through its continuous monitoring of the events in the Arab and international arenas, the Saudi Government fully appreciates the measures adopted by the United Nations in order to implement the UN Security Council resolutions; secure the respect of international legitimacy and ensure the stability of security and peace in the Arab region.

Saudi Arabia would also like to express its support to the continuous efforts exerted by His Excellency U.S. President George Bush in this context.

Republic of Yemen

*Top Negotiator on Saudi Border Dispute

92AE0519A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jul 92 p 5

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by 'Abdallah Hammudah; place and date not given: "Yemeni Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Yemeni-Gulf Relations Improving Gradually; Geneva Meeting Successful; We Will Resume Talks in September"]

[Text] Geneva—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemen's minister of state for foreign affairs, has asserted that Yemeni-Gulf relations and Yemeni-Arab relations are supposed to be restored [to normal] gradually. He expressed the feeling that the developments are "slow" in this regard. However, he believes that "this sluggishness will not last long."

The minister stated this in an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in wake of the first meeting between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemeni delegations to agree on the bases of border talks between the two countries. It has been decided that the next negotiation steps will begin nearly two months from now, i.e. next September.

The interview was an opportunity to shed light on Yemen's Arab and international foreign policy and to point out to what degree this policy's tendencies are tied to the domestic conditions and requirements.

[Hammudah] What are the most significant determinants of Yemen's foreign policy in this phase?

[Dali] Our foreign policy emanates from the program which the government submitted to the parliament (Yemeni Chamber of Deputies), and on whose basis the government got the vote of confidence. This policy is determined by the principles and rules acknowledged internationally, such as good-neighbor relations, nonintervention in domestic affairs, cooperation with all countries without impediments, respect for every country's sovereignty, settling problems, if they exist, peacefully, and refraining from the use of violence and force to solve any problem between one country and another.

In this phase, we are especially focusing on creating a climate of stability and security in our region because we feel that security and stability have been achieved in

Yemen now that we have accomplished Yemeni unity. Our country was split into two parts and two governments and numerous problems existed between us. But since the unity, we feel that stability has been achieved domestically and that, therefore, the next step is to expand the sphere of security and stability in our region and to establish fraternal and friendly relations with the neighbors because a climate of stability and security would create the circumstances for implementing development programs.

Our fundamental objective in this regard is to accelerate the development pace. Stability is not an objective in itself but a fundamental prerequisite for development. Development means enhancing the people's living standard and improving their conditions at all levels. The real struggle is struggle against backwardness, poverty, and ignorance. If we don't overcome backwardness, it will be the cause of catastrophes and problems, and herein lies the need for rapid development in order to overcome backwardness. This requires that stability be established in Yemen and around it.

Gulf Relations

[Hammudah] You have noted that foreign policy does more than reflect domestic conditions; it also plays a role in preparing the domestic environment to develop positively. How do you view Yemeni-Gulf relations within this context?

[Dali] Yemen's relations with the Gulf states have always been good fraternal relations. But when Desert Storm blew, the climate of these relations got somewhat clouded. However, our relations with Oman, for example, have always been stable and this stability has been maintained despite the winds of Desert Storm; they have now developed in an excellent manner. We are about to conclude the border demarcation treaty shortly, God willing.

[Hammudah] Why has the signing of this treaty been delayed several times?

[Dali] For purely technical reasons.

[Hammudah] Does this mean that there is no disagreement over the borders?

[Dali] No, this has nothing to do with the borders. It is just a matter of technical aspects which have taken some time. God be thanked, we have now truly overcome them. We are in the process of drafting documents to be signed. God willing, you will hear good news very soon.

[Hammudah] What about relations with the other countries?

[Dali] Insofar as the other countries are concerned, relations are supposed to restored gradually. However, the pace is slow, even though we want them to be restored quickly. But I don't think that this sluggishness in the relations will last long.

[Hammudah] Have you made a stride on this path in Geneva?

[Dali] I consider the convocation of this meeting a good stride on this path. I consider this preparatory meeting a successful meeting.

[Hammudah] And the next step will be taken in September?

[Dali] God willing. This is how it is, in principle. There will be constant contacts between the two countries' government to make arrangements for this purpose.

Internationally

[Hammudah] Regarding Yemen's international relations, some observers believe that in light of the sluggish Arab and Gulf relations, Yemen has made great efforts at the international level to go beyond the Arab sphere to the international sphere in order to replace the past activity. How true is this?

[Hammudah] Our international relations were affected somewhat as a result of the Gulf crisis. But normalcy has been quickly restored to these relations because of the wish of the Yemeni Government and of other countries to overcome this situation promptly in light of the clarifications exchanged with the other parties and for the sake of our common interests.

[Hammudah] Could you name specific countries as examples?

[Dali] Our relations with all the European countries, without exception, are good. I will especially note the FRG, whose president visited us recently. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has also visited us. Our foreign minister and the British foreign secretary have exchanged visits. We consider the Netherlands one of the countries which offer beneficial aid to Yemen. These are some examples.

Horn of Africa

[Hammudah] You have visited Djibouti and some Horn of African countries. What is Yemen's position on what is going on there and what is the nature of the mutual effects of the conditions in Yemen and in these countries?

[Dali] As I have already said, our policy is based on creating a climate of stability and cooperation in our region. This also applies to the other side of the Red Sea, meaning Djibouti, Somalia, and Ethiopia. We try to establish good relations with them and among them. We exerted efforts to settle the Somali issue when the reconciliation conference was held in Djibouti. This conference came up with good resolutions. Regrettably, those resolutions haven't seen the light of day. They haven't been applied. What is happening now is regrettable and

tragic. The war goes on and thousands of Somali refugees, who are our brothers, have been made homeless in the neighboring countries. Large numbers of these refugees have come to Yemen.

Fundamentally, we sought not to take anybody's side in our efforts. Others have also exerted their efforts. Yet, the situation in Somalia continues to be tragic. There is an urgent need for the Arab League and the United Nations to make a move, not just to aid the refugees but also to solve the problem by getting all the warring factions in Somalia together in order to end the existing political feuds and, consequently, the state of division existing there. What is more important than aid efforts is to solve the internal problem. The Arab League must make a move to solve this problem.

It is no secret that we have made efforts to solve the Djibouti problem and that we have cooperated with France and with the Djiboutian Government and the opposition so that the dispute wouldn't explode. God be thanked, the situation is calm there now. We hope that there will be continued tranquillity so that an accord can be concluded between the opposition and the government. Truly, we appreciate greatly President Hassan Gouled's wisdom and ability to play the role of father to all the people of Djibouti so they can reach the shore of safety.

[Hammudah] What about the relations with Ethiopia?

[Dali] The relations with Ethiopia and Eritrea are good.

Relations With Iran

[Hammudah] What are the most significant determinants of Yemeni-Iranian relations?

[Dali] Iran is a neighboring country and history tells that the relations between our two countries are old, having existed for thousands of years. By virtue of our being neighbors, the relations have to be good. We have begun to develop our relations with Iran and to lay down the foundations for cooperation between the two countries in trade, communications, and all other fields.

These relations also emanate from the principles of Yemeni politics. I believe that relations with Iran or with any other country are an element of stability. Why should relations between any two countries be a source of instability?! But if relations between any two countries are aimed at pressuring a third country, then such relations swerve from their natural role and lead to instability.

God be thanked, none of our relations contains an element to destabilize any other country; our relations are not established with one country at the expense of another.

Here, we assure everybody that our relations with Iran will be for no purpose other than to bolster the region's, and Yemen's, stability. We permit no foreign intervention in our domestic affairs. Therefore, our relations with the neighboring countries will not have the impact of creating instability in Yemen.

Division of Powers

[Hammudah] When Yemen's unity was accomplished, it became evident in the government structure that every cabinet minister from one part has a deputy from the other part. Even in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Shayi' Muhsin (Yemen's current ambassador in London) was the deputy foreign minister. Meanwhile, you have continued to be the minister of state for foreign affairs throughout this period. So there are two ministers of foreign affairs at present.

[Dali] (Interposing) No, there is the minister of foreign affairs only.

[Hammudah] I wish to ask about the division of powers between you and Dr. al-Iryani.

[Dali] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani is the minister of foreign affairs and I am the minister of state for foreign affairs. This situation isn't unique. There are numerous countries which have a minister of foreign affairs and a minister of state for foreign affairs. It is true that we have merged two government apparatuses since the unity. But this issue is over and we have become now a single country, a single state, and a single government. Sectorial affiliation has ended completely. The presence of a deputy minister in any cabinet ministry is based on his abilities and capabilities to work in this or that agency.

[Hammudah] What about the position of Yemeni Jews? As indicated by official statements, their position is like that of any other Yemeni citizen. But within the context of the ongoing opening-up process in Yemen and of Yemen's wish to (develop its image) in the eyes of the outside world, the Jews are receiving visits from parties that aren't above suspicion. This gives others the opportunity to undermine the current opening-up process.

[Dali] We stress that Yemen is opening up. The Jews are Yemeni citizens, and we don't prohibit any citizen from traveling, except to Israel. Most Yemeni Jews go to the United States because they have some family members there.

As to the question of this openness being abused by some people, there is no doubt that we watch the situation. We will not be amazed or surprised to find that some people exploit this openness to harm Yemen under varied pretexts, such as the allegation that Yemen wants to evict Yemeni Jews who are, in fact, the same as any other citizens and who have the right to go abroad and return. But if there are elements that wish to create problems for Yemeni Jews in Yemen, then we will not keep silent on them and we will not permit any violation of Yemen's sovereignty, regardless of who are the parties that try to exploit openness and plurality in Yemen. If some parties wish to exploit this situation to create a problem for Yemen, then there are bounds [beyond which they will not be permitted to go].

New Foreign Minister Named in Shakeup

JN3007101892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1002 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—It was announced here today that the minister of finance and the minister of higher education and scientific research have been relieved of their posts, and that ministers have been appointed in their place.

Two presidential decrees have provided for relieving 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, minister of higher education and scientific research; and Majid 'Abd Ja'far, minister of finance, of their posts. The decrees provide for appointing Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, head of the Atomic Energy Organization, as minister of higher education; and Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn as minister of finance. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, has been appointed foreign minister.

Regime Reportedly Opens Fire on Protesters

NC2907175192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] An estimated 10,000 people staged a massive demonstration in the streets of al-A'zamiyah two days ago in defiance of tyrant Saddam Husayn's authorities and protesting the execution of scores of small merchants and businessmen by the outcast regime forces.

The Voice of Iraqi People has learned that the ostracized regime's authorities opened fire on the demonstrators who chanted for the downfall of tyrant Saddam Husayn in a massive demonstration on 27 July. There were no immediate reports of casualties from this new criminal act perpetrated by the outcast regime agents against our people.

The outcast tyrant's authorities carried out a new hideous crime when they executed a large number of citizens on 24 July, handed the bodies of 42 of them to their families, who they prevented from performing prayers, and stole their money.

Our radio promised to reveal the identity of those executed by the ostracized regime. They include Husayn al-Shakatji, Salim Hamrah, Najah Kubbah, Haj Latif al-A'dhami, Jabbar Shnaywir, Tariq Hamrah and his son, the son of Muhyi al-Haj Radi, and others from the al-Shammari and al-Kubaysat clans.

Contractor Sa'd Sabrah managed to slip from the grip of the tyrant's forces and tyrant Saddam's agents seized his home and confiscated his property.

Regime Executes 'Large Number' of Merchants

NC2707155192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The tyrannical regime has committed another ugly crime against our people in Iraq. The regime's intelligence service arrested a large number of small merchants and businessmen on charges of hoarding goods and executed them without trial on Friday night.

'Greedy' Merchants' Punishment 'Fair'

JN2907174292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and vice president, has conveyed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the population of Babil Governorate. He also communicated his excellency the president's pride in their role in serving the march of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

During a meeting today with the comrade secretary and members of the command of the Babil branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and tribal chieftains in the governorate, the RCC member affirmed that the devotion of our forefathers, who offered their lives and all that is dear to expel the foreigners, is being manifested today through the Iraqis' enthusiasm and firm confrontation with the brutal 30-state aggression and its evil objectives. [passage omitted]

Afterward, Taha Yasin Ramadan, accompanied by comrade 'Abd-al- Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, official in charge of the Euphrates party organizations, visited Karbala' Governorate, where he presided over a meeting at the governorate building. The meeting was attended by Karbala' Governor 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-'Aziz and the comrade secretary and members of the Karbala' party branch command. During the meeting, the vice president affirmed that meting out fair punishment to the greedy merchants who cooperated with the devil against the people is a response to the masses' demands after those merchants lost every connection with their people and patriotism.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also met with the comrades at the commands of the Musa Bin-Nusayr section and the 'Ayn al-Tamr group within the organizations of the Karbala' party branch command. He affirmed that the Iraqis' have emerged successful from the hardest test they have undergone, when their principles and values have not been shaken despite the feverish threats of the parties to the 30-state aggression. [passage omitted]

Saddam Orders Discharge of NCO's on Anniversary

JN2907111092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has ordered that noncommissioned officers [NCO's] born in 1967 be discharged on 8 August to mark the fourth anniversary of the major victory [of Iraq over Iran].

NCO's of other ages and reservists who have completed compulsory service are to be discharged in groups to be determined by the Defense Ministry.

Saddam Orders Increase in Notaries' Public Salaries

JN2407124692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that allowances granted to notaries public be increased from 25 percent of their salaries to 50 percent. This was stated to INA by Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki, who said: This new gift falls within the framework of leader President Saddam Husayn's care for legal employees, and it reflects appreciation of their role in achieving justice and consolidating the noble values of justice in our society. [passage omitted]

River Project 73 Percent Completed

JN2907195692 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Jul 92 pp 1, 6

[By Tariq al-Juburi]

[Text] Seventy-three percent of the earthworks for the leader Saddam Husayn's river project were completed as of yesterday. This percentage is equivalent to some 48,751,000 cubic meters.

This came in a statement to AL-THAWRAH by Fawzi Isma'il al-Rashid, director of planning at al-Faw General Enterprise, one of the formations of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], who added that work is proceeding as scheduled. Complete sections have also been accomplished along the northern and central sectors of the river, where most of earthworks are concentrated.

AL-THAWRAH has also learned that the MIO mujahidin and their affiliated formations in the southern sector have accomplished advanced rates in their work on the diversion canal built around the pumping station, to make it pass through the siphon [preceding word in English] under the Euphrates. The MIO mujahidin had prepared designs and studies as a temporary and transitional alternative to confront the unjust economic blockade imposed on our country, which has prevented the arrival of some of the requirements necessary for the work of pumps the project needs in this sector.

'Assassination Attempt' Linked to Rift in Clique

NC2407172392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] A report by informed sources in Baghdad has disclosed what happened at the Republican Palace on Sunday, following which rumors spread that tyrant Saddam Husayn had been assassinated.

The report, the details of which were made public today, discloses that there really was an attempt to assassinate tyrant Saddam Husayn. This attempt was a link in the series of struggles among the members of the small clique surrounding Saddam.

The report says that Barzan al-Tikriti visited the tyrant's home on Sunday, carrying an international message that the events in north and south Iraq threatened Iraq's territorial unity. Therefore, extraordinary measures should be taken, above all the abdication of Saddam in return for guarantees of safe conduct for him and his family.

The report says a sharp argument broke out at the despot's home in Karradat Maryam. Khalid 'Abdallah, an assistant to Barzan al-Tikriti, pulled his pistol, but Saddam Kamil, the tyrant's son-in-law, opened fire first, killing 'Abdallah.

The report indicates that following this incident, thousands of the tyrant's personal guards took up position and adopted precautionary measures.

The report stresses that the small clique surrounding tyrant Saddam has split into two disputant parties. The first party is led by Barzan al-Tikriti and the other by Husayn Kamil, the tyrant's son-in-law.

The report links this struggle to tyrant Saddam's recent visit to Tikrit, during which he tried to reconcile the two disputant parties.

Barzan al-Tikriti, who has visited tribal chieftains in al-Anbar, Tikrit, and al-Mahmudiyah, derives his strength from an alliance consisting of his brother Wathban, who is interior minister in the rejected regime, and Sab'awi, who is head of the regime's intelligence service.

Reports on Situation in Kurdistan

Food Supplies Sent to North

JN2907112592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has said that the ministry has been ferrying further food supplies to the autonomous region in northern Iraq.

During a visit to the Makhmur District in Irbil Governorate, the minister said that since the introduction of ration cards, the ministry has consistently sent provisions covered by the ration card and other items to our people in the autonomous region governorates in common with their brother citizens in the other governorates despite the the criminal blockade.

In statements to AL-THAWRAH published today, the minister said the ministry agencies are supplying food to all the citizens of the autonomous region.

He made it clear that Kurdish citizens of the autonomous region's governorates wishing to make sure their food rations are being delivered can go to check points at approach roads to their governorates to see for themselves the hundreds of food- and flour-laden trucks. The citizens will then realize the falseness of the claims spread by agents who have been forced on our Kurdish people by their American, British, and French masters presiding over the criminal embargo and the starvation of our steadfast people.

He indicated that the ministry is responsible for getting food stuffs through to the farthest point under state control, beyond which it has no way of knowing how and whether the items reach their intended destinations. The minister explained that the ministry is unable to pursue the matter in certain areas.

UN Post Attacked; Shelling Wounds 7

NC2907154392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Tyrant Saddam's forces shelled Kurdish areas south of Karkuk with heavy artillery last night, wounding seven people.

Yesterday, Kurdish sources said an armed group attacked the UN barracks in al-Sulaymaniyah two days ago. The sources added that the attack, which was perpetrated by the outcast tyrant regime's agents, did not cause any losses.

Leader Rejects Talabani Statement

NC2907171192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Commenting on [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader] Jalal Talabani's statement to AL-HAYAH newspaper, Sa'd Salih Jabir, head of the Iraqi Free Council, made the following statement:

In its 24 July edition, AL-HAYAH published a statement by Jalal Talabani in which he said that Iraqi Kurdistan's future is uncertain. Talabani said that Iraqi Kurdistan faces two options: to be part of Iraq or of another Middle Eastern country, and he named Iran, Syria, and Turkey as likely countries to protect Kurdistan, noting that Turkey is the strongest candidate. Talabani said that it is time to openly discuss this with Turkish politicians and the Turkish Government, press, educated men, and people.

Sa'd Jabir said: In the name of the Iraqi Free Council, I express my rejection and denunciation of this serious statement. I hope Talabani will retract his statement for the following reasons:

1. It contains an open call for placing Iraqi Kurdistan under international bidding, slicing Kurdistan from Iraq's political entity and annexing it to another country;

2. It will give Saddam's regime a new opportunity to pursue his claims, contrary to the actual situation, that his continuation in power guarantees Iraq's unity;

3. The statement harms the interests of the Kurdish people in Iraq now and in the future as it harms the entire Iraqi people;

4. Iraqi Kurdistan's future is not nearly as ambiguous as Talabani claims. With the demise of Saddam's regime and bases, the Kurdish people in Iraq will have a suitable opportunity for a free and secure coexistence with all their Iraqi brothers as partners in the same homeland.

Shiite Radio Reports Helicopter Downed in South

NC2407145392 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1322 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Excerpts] With great divine support and unflinching resolve, our heroic mujahidin have repulsed Saddam's barbaric attacks on our revolutionaries' posts and our kinsfolk who are holding out in the marshlands, and they inflicted severe losses in lives and equipment on the collapsed remnants. The latest of these was the downing of a helicopter in (Umm al-Hawsh) by our air defenses at precisely 1000 on 21 July. It was observed on fire and the fate of its crew is unknown. We will provide you with the latest reports from the theater of operations, in which your sons are recording magnificent epics of heroism and jihad against Saddam's collapsed regime. [passage omitted]

After relying on Almighty God and with the determination of our struggling people's zealous and brave sons, a few days ago heroes of the popular forces dealt a lightening and effective blow to the 14th Division's 3d Regiment Headquarters in the al-Salam District of al-'Amarah Governorate. The attack resulted in the destruction of a military truck (?and its load) and three stacks of ammunition, the burning of many tents, and the deaths of a number of Saddam's mercenaries. The operation comes as a heroic response to the brutal attacks of the tyrant's forces on our proud marshland's innocent inhabitants.

Last Monday our popular forces' air defenses in the al-'Amarah marshlands monitored unidentified fighter aircraft at high altitude over that area. Our popular forces believe that these aircraft belong to the tyrant's regime and that their mission was to photograph the area and pinpoint populated areas to attack them and terrify their peaceful inhabitants.

One day after these flights, the al-'Amarah marshlands came under heavy artillery bombardment by Saddam's remnants stationed in these areas.

Spokesman on Marshland Operations, Baker Meeting

JN3007084992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—An official Iraqi spokesman has accused the U.S. Administration of misleading U.S. public opinion about the true state of affairs in (?Iraq).

In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said the the Bush government knows well that Iranian infiltrators are crossing the joint marshland area with Iran in order to turn the Iraqi side of the marshlands into a base for launching sabotage and smuggling operations inside Iraq.

The spokesman indicated that this [words indistinct] is not new in an area full of water channels, reeds, and bushes.

Commenting on the U.S. secretary of state's meeting with those who call themselves the Iraqi opposition, the spokesman said: We congratulate James Baker for attracting this [word indistinct] which has failed on political, professional, and moral levels, and whose members do not respect each other or anybody in the homeland.

Republican Guard Deployed at al-Rashid

NC2707173592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Republican Guard units have deployed around al-Rashid camp in Baghdad, digging trenches around the camp and installing machine guns and rockets to protect it.

Paper Alleges Saddam Plot To Kidnap Inspectors

NC2907204592 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Baghdad radio on 20 July reported that the Iraqi authorities had permitted the UN inspectors to enter the Agriculture Ministry building to search for documents and data on Iraq's nuclear weapons. Suddenly, news agencies refuted Baghdad's radio report, affirming that the UN inspectors had withdrawn and returned to their hotel following noisy demonstrations by some Iraqis.

Secret reports indicate that Baghdad radio's false report on permitting the UN inspectors to enter the building was part of a plan by Saddam's men to kidnap the inspectors and conceal them. Iraq would then claim that the inspectors did not leave the ministry and that it knew nothing about them after they had entered the building. However, the inspectors became aware of Saddam's ploy and withdrew after one of them was injured during the demonstrations.

It has been reported that the Iraqi regime not only keeps documents and data on its nuclear weapons inside the Agriculture Ministry building, but it also keep quantities of radioactive materials used to enrich atomic bombs. These materials, worth over $1 billion, lose their radioactivity if they are moved and not used immediately to enrich atomic bombs. This is the reason for Saddam's insistence on preventing the UN inspectors from entering the building. Had there only been documents and data, he could have removed them and allowed the inspectors to enter the building. This also explains the Iraqi maneuver carried out by Iraq's UN Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, who declared on 25 July that there was a possibility of a compromise between the United Nations and Iraq under which the UN inspectors would be allowed access to the Agriculture Ministry in Baghdad. Reports indicate that Saddam may allow the inspectors to enter the building if he is able to move the radioactive materials. He does not know, however, that satellites are monitoring his every movement.

Saddam's press secretary 'Abd-al-Jabir Muhsin issued an appeal to the Iraqi people to treat the UN inspectors with disdain because they are U.S. intelligence agents who are bent on destroying Iraq. The reports say that this appeal was designed to intimidate the inspectors and keep them inside their hotel so that Saddam's agents could remove the radioactive materials from the building.

Officials, Papers Comment on UN Inspection

Position Reflects Popular Sentiment

JN2807125192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1201 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has affirmed that the firm and courageous position of the leadership led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in confronting the schemes hatched by U.S. quarters and their allies is a direct response to the general popular rejection expressed by the masses in their marches, which reflected their condemnation of the inspection team's practices.

Ramadan added that the provocative practices and hostile conduct of evil powers reflect black and ingrained rancor toward all that is positive in the march and life of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan made these remarks when he visited some headquarters of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in a number of cities in central Iraq.

'Jihad' Against 'Despotism' To Continue

JN2907141592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has reiterated the determination of Iraq's leadership and people to continue the march of jihad against U.S.-Zionist despotism and ruthlessness.

At a seminar in Karkuk, the capital city of al-Ta'mim Governorate, today, al-Zubaydi said that the Iraqis under President Saddam Husayn will continue that march in the face of dear sacrifices and the numerous chapters of plotting.

He affirmed that the great victory that has been achieved against America and its allies has been a strong slap to the plots targeting Iraq's sovereignty and seeking to interfere in its internal affairs. He asserted that this heralds the beginning of the disappearance of black clouds from Iraqi skies.

People Asked To 'Trample' Resolutions

JN2907122092 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 8

['Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin Article: "We Live by God's Wish; We Die by God's Wish"']

[Text] Our people do not recall that they owe the Security Council anything. The Council took the greatest number of resolutions in the shortest possible time, all of which were along the same line; namely, imposing sanctions against our country if it did not withdraw from Kuwait. We withdrew from Kuwait, thus rendering these resolutions nullified or unnecessary unless the aim is to confront Iraq. The issue of Kuwait is a pretext.

First of all, the implementation of any resolution should be based on the reason for which it was adopted and not on hidden feelings. No legislation in the world is based on inner and covert aims. The Security Council resolutions cannot be implemented on a subjective basis, or on U.S. aims made apparent by the Kuwait issue.

This discussion would be practical had the Security Council been a self-respecting organization, and had some states that approved the resolutions been self-respecting, particularly the states which have the veto power and which failed to use it on the pretext that our entry into Kuwait was an intolerable aggression from the legal viewpoint.

Now that it has become apparent that there are no self-respecting big powers, that they are shameless in the eyes of their people and the world, that they do not find their conduct contrary to their "socialist" ideology and do not see any harm in submitting to the wishes of America, which in the past they considered to be only a paper tiger, the Iraqis should now declare to the whole world that the Security Council owes them the fact that it did not end the embargo immediately after their withdrawal from Kuwait, that it inflicted severe damage on their national interests.

Moreover, the scoundrels in Japan, the scoundrels in France, and before that the English scoundrels—all these despicable sides—are still besieging Iraq for having entered Kuwait for a few days.

Japan practiced the most gruesome colonialism in China and Southeast Asia and committed the most heinous crimes against the human race. For details, read the novel by French Writer Andre Malraux entitled "Human Condition."

France enslaved the Arab Maghreb states for a century and a half, regarded these countries as French provinces, looted their wealth, and killed 1 million from the Algerian people alone.

As for Britain, it regarded the second largest Asian nation, India, as the brightest jewel in its crown, ruled it as a part of Britain, and enslaved many countries in Asia and Africa, including Iraq.

From the viewpoints of the despicable scoundrels, all of these actions were within their rights. Why? I do not know.

If we assume for the sake of argument that they have the right to consider our entry into Kuwait a permanent crime and insist on the embargo because we stayed six months in Kuwait, which is part of our country and which is connected with the southern part of our country, then we have the right to demand from Britain compensation for the period it occupied our country.

The Arab Maghreb states should demand this from France and Italy and China should demand the same from Japan.

Japan should ask its ally, the United States, to pay compensation for bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki minus the damage Japan inflicted on Pearl Harbor.

Do they think that their Security Council can issue a resolution by which the secretary general can cancel out history?

What I have said is logical. But what kind of logic will do when dealing with those who consider might to be right?

The rulers of Japan, which is notorious for its horrible colonialism, Britain whose history is full of dirt; and France the prostitute, want to teach the Iraqi people how to preserve the sovereignty of states when the entire objective of Iraq was to preserve its own sovereignty.

The Iraqi people only wanted to confront the attempts to dominate their wealth and resources.

Now what can we do to face all this?

Nothing but to treat them with contempt and go forward, and to trample under foot all their resolutions and the resolutions of their council.

As our ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari said: A bomb here and a bomb there will not change anything in the situation. The bombs may kill individuals but will not wipe out a people.

Respect is only for those who deserve it. To respect those who do not deserve respect is humiliation. I do not think that anyone of us accepts humiliation.

Let us tell them: Lift the embargo and compensate Iraq for the damages inflicted on it. But we are not afraid. There is nothing left with you that terrifies us.

You have dropped 85,000 tonnes of explosives on our country.

You are still imposing your blockade.

You have tried all your plots.

Our religion, and the firm heritage of our people teach us that only God will be able to take our souls. We only say that we live by God's wish and we die by God's wish.

Saddam Receives Thank-You Cable from King Husayn

JN3007111092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0758 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from his brother His Majesty King

Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan in response to his excellency's condolence cable on the death of the late al-Sharif Rakan Bin-Ghazi Nasir. The cable reads: I sincerely thank your excellency for your condolence cable on the death of the late al-Sharif Rakan Bin-Ghazi Nasir in which you expressed your sincere condolences and great fraternal feelings. I ask Almighty God to preserve your excellency in good health and protect you and the fraternal Iraqi people from all evil.

Explosion at Defense Factory; 'Many Casualties'

TA3007053392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0515 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Here is a report just in: A short while ago, there was a powerful explosion at a defense factory in central Israel. This is not the same factory where a previous accident happened a month ago. Many ambulances and fire engines are at the site. There are no reports on casualties yet. We will update you as soon as we have more details.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0524 GMT carries a brief update, adding that "two giant explosions occurred in the area of the Nof Yam neighborhood of Herzliyya, and we have initial reports that there are many casualties."]

Further on Blast, Rescue Operation

TA3007062092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] About an hour ago, there was a very powerful explosion at an Israel Military Industries plant in Nof Yam. There are reports that many were hurt, but their number is not yet known. So far, 15 slightly to moderately injured have been taken to hospitals.

Our correspondents Shim'on Vilna'i, Moshe Nussbaum, and Yafa Glick report that a giant mushroom cloud of smoke was seen at the site and a huge fire broke out. The explosion was heard at a distance of dozens of kilometers from the site. It shook many houses, and several buildings in the vicinity of the explosion were damaged. Windows were shattered in remote houses as well.

Dozens of ambulances and fire engines rushed to the site and an Army helicopter is taking part in the rescue operations. The police have blocked the traffic on the Coastal Highway south of Netanya and diverted it to the Sharon road.

One Killed, 47 Injured in Explosion

TA3007064792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0628 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Rescue operations in the Sharon District are continuing following the explosion at the Israel Military Industries plant in Nof Yam. Dr. Asher Porat, director of the Me'ir Hospital in Kfar Sava, reported that one fatality was brought to the hospital a while ago. In addition, 47 people were injured and taken to hospitals in the area by Magen David ambulances. The Coastal Highway and all other roads in the area have been reopened to traffic and, in fact, the incident is over. Damage was caused to houses in the area, and most of the casualties were a result of the blast.

The explosion took place at an underground plant. It was caused when explosives caught fire. The amount of explosives kept there is not known, but rumor has it that it was a big ammunitions dump.

Two Killed; Rescue Operations Ending

TA3007081892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Two people were killed and over 20 factory workers were injured in the explosion at the Israel Military Industries [IMI] plant in Nof Yam this morning. About 20 others were injured outside the plant; most of them sustained slight injuries as a result of the blast. Most of the casualties are reported to be suffering from moderate to slight injuries.

The explosion occurred when a large ammunition depot in an underground installation ignited in the course of an experiment. The rescue and evacuation operations are being wrapped up at the moment. All the fires have been extinguished, and all the explosive material at the site has been detonated.

An IMI spokesman told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the plant is currently being searched and checked with the help of police and Army forces.

Construction Minister Discusses Building Policy

TA2907200692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1840 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Yoram Ronen and economic affairs correspondent 'Oded Shahar on the weekly "Moqed" program; questions phoned in by viewers at the Psagot settlement in Samaria—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Ever since the new government was established two weeks ago, the most hotly debated issue has been the construction freeze in the settlements. Treasury officials say that it will save 1.5 billion shekels, while contractors warn of an economic recession and higher unemployment. Ari'el Sharon has vowed in the Knesset that he will not allow it to happen. What does Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, our guest on "Moqed" here tonight, have to say?

Good evening, Mr. Minister.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] And a very good evening to you.

[Ronen] And a good evening to my colleague, 'Oded Shahar. We will not be the only ones asking you questions this evening. Questions will be coming in from the community center at the settlement of Psagot near Ramallah where our correspondent, Nitzan Hen, has stationed a broadcasting van.

Good evening, Nitzan. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Mr. Minister, the decision to freeze approximately 5,000 housing units in the territories made a lot of waves, but you refrained from highlighting the fact that approximately 9,000 or 10,000 housing starts will be built in the territories next year by the Labor- and Meretz-led government. For all practical purposes this means an additional 40,000 to 50,000 Jewish residents

in the territories. Perhaps Ari'el Sharon was right when he claimed to have established faits accomplis and you people lack the courage to confront them?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Let me say that this government, which has been in office for only two weeks, was elected—and this is especially true for its major component, the Labor Party—after clearly presenting its positions to the public for many months. The government has two major goals: First, there is the making of peace, and to be more precise, the expediting of the process of dialogue and peacemaking; second, establishing a new national order of priorities....

[Ronen, interrupting] But what about the settlements?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I will speak about that. We found ourselves with a given situation in the field. As you said, there were approximately 9,000 housing units for which frames already had been prepared. A great part of these were nearing completion. Despite all the difficulties, this government took a great many considerations into account and decided to leave these structures standing. It is interesting to note today that despite all the screaming—and people are talking about destruction and liquidation—we did not destroy any houses and have no intention of doing so. The only thing we did was to halt the construction of 7,000 housing starts that had not been begun yet. Contracts already had been signed for some of these, but not for all of them. We decided to leave these houses, and we are aware of the significance of our decision.

[Shahar] Because you lacked the courage?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, it is not a question of courage. The difference between this government and the previous one.... [changes thought] The U.S. secretary of state was here. We presented the true picture. I believe he left here aware of one thing: that there were facts on the ground which this government could not ignore. I think he left Israel aware of our difficulties, but at least he departed this time with the true figures about the territories.

[Ronen] These figures confirm what we said at the beginning of the program, that between 40,000 and 50,000 Jews possibly may move into the territories next year.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Indeed, I believe that is the number of people that will move into the territories if these apartments eventually are bough:, and if these apartments are purchased by settlers. I do not know if that will be the case, but assuming that this is indeed what will happen, then this is true. One thing, however, is clear today to the U.S. Administration and to everyone involved in the peace process: This government is determined to begin the peace process and establish a dialogue. It was clear to us that today one cannot bring tractors, as the Likud did in Yamit, and start tearing down settlements. We have not demolished any settlements. What we did say was this: no new ones will be built, there will be no more new settlements established.

[Ronen] Not even in the Jordan Rift Valley and the Golan Heights?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Wait a minute. As for the Jordan Rift Valley, let me tell the audience something: Not one single apartment was built there over the past year. Zilch! Absolutely no housing units in the Jordan Rift Valley, which we defined as security settlements. Nothing was built there. Let us ask how many apartments were built in the 'Etzyon Bloc, an area on which we in Labor share a total consensus.

[Ronen] Will you build there?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] As far as we concerned, this area is defined as part of the area protecting Jerusalem, and there are no limitations on building there, but you were speaking about the Jordan Rift Valley, where not even one apartment was built.

[Shahar] Mr. Ben-Eli'ezer, why did you keep on mentioning Baker's visit and the U.S. Administration in your first answer? Perhaps all these decisions were either a capitulation or an exercise in public relations that was not directed toward the Israeli public, but toward the man pulling the strings over the ocean?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I would like to tell you one thing: It makes no difference whether Baker was here or not. These decisions were virtually dictated by the government's basic guidelines. You cannot set a new national order of priorities or divert funds to achieve certain goals.... [changes thought] The Israeli Government's top priorities are the 250,000 unemployed, the tens of thousands of young couples who are homeless and cannot afford a house, the country's educational crisis, the demobilized soldiers, the disadvantaged neighborhoods; these are the things that the government is going to tackle. Now....

[Shahar, interrupting] Excuse me, do not give me any politics now. Sources at the treasury have told me that there are 12,000 apartments that the government may have to purchase itself because there is no demand for them. Construction has not even begun on 3,000 of these apartments, but the fact is that you have not struck them off. I am talking about the entire State of Israel now, not just the Green Line. Why? Perhaps once again you lacked the courage to see it through? Perhaps you took a step in a certain direction and then got cold feet?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, when the cabinet met on this—mainly the prime minister, the finance minister, and myself—we had a whole series of considerations to think about. I frankly admit that we did not want to squarely confront the Jewish residents inside the territories. Nothing would be easier than to come out with some tough decision. One must keep one thing in mind, 'Oded, and that is the fact that we are in a transitional stage. All we wanted to do was to take the data we have, see where the housing starts are already inescapable facts, and let these be completed, while freezing things as they stand now and forbidding any new housing starts or faits accomplis. [passage omitted]

'Final Decisions' on Freeze Noted

TA2707191592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Report by economic affairs correspondent 'Oded Shahar]

[Text] Exactly two weeks after its establishment, the government completed one of the most significant moves in the economic sphere. In a consultation with Prime Minister Rabin, Finance Minister Shohat and Construction Minister Ben-Eli'ezer decided to cancel another 4,000 building contracts within the boundaries of the Green Line. And, what is more important, the Labor ministers did not decide to freeze or cancel plans to build over 8,000 housing units in the territories.

So, here is an interim report: All in all, the building of over 13,000 housing units throughout the country—including 6,700 in the territories—has been frozen. Nevertheless, the government will go on building some 80,000 apartments throughout the country, including in Judaea and Samaria. The government will be compelled to purchase 24,000 apartments from contractors this year and another 12,000 apartments next year. To this end, the government will have to spend 1.5 billion shekels out of next year's state budget.

Nevertheless, through its decisions to call off the construction of houses and roads the government will be able to save about 1.7 billion shekels. Some 100 million shekels in compensation will be paid to contractors with whom contracts have already been signed.

The prime minister, the finance minister, and the construction minister met for over two hours today in the prime minister's bureau in the Knesset to finalize the plans to freeze construction. Later, at an impromptu news conference, Ministers Shohat and Ben-Eli'ezer said that these were the final decisions on construction, and that no decisions to cancel or freeze additional contracts should be expected.

[Begin recording] [Shahar] Where will construction be frozen?

[Shohat] In all areas, it depends. We dwelled in particular on areas where there is a large surplus of apartments. Building was to some extent halted in Beersheba and in Nazareth through the previous decision. On the other hand, some building will continue in Karmi'el, Nazareth, and 'Akko so that construction does not grind to an absolute halt.

[Shahar] Could it be that the decision not to deal any more with construction in the territories stems from the pressure exerted by the settlers and the threats against you personally?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] First of all, I did not and I will not take any notice of threats. This whole thing is not serious. I have known these people for many years, and they are very responsible people. I think the calls of some of their leaders may have fallen on ears that have nothing to do with the territories, and that is why one should take no notice of it.

No, there was no pressure on us. The overriding consideration was that the vast majority of the housing units in question are in the final stages of completion, and to halt construction made no sense. [end recording]

Peres Discusses Peace Process, Labor Policies

NC2907161092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1351 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that there is no alternative to peace because the other options are all dangerous. Therefore, all international and regional efforts should combine to achieve comprehensive peace in the region. This came in an interview with the Cairo-based magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, which will appear 31 July.

Peres said that the change that took place in Israel was in response to the Israeli people's demands, the change in public opinion, and economic and social needs.

The Israeli foreign minister said that Israel's announcement that it will stop building settlements and give self-rule to the Palestinians within nine months is a confidence-building measure and a sign of goodwill. He said that we all need to make progress and to improve the economic conditions in the region, a matter that will benefit all the nations in the region.

Peres noted that the Labor Party program states that with the beginning of the peace talks the building of all types of settlements should be stopped in accordance with a decision made by the Labor Party's General Congress. He added: We expect the Arabs to make a reciprocal gesture, such as suspending the Arab boycott.

What we need, the Israeli foreign minister stated, is a memorandum of understanding, because security guarantees have to originate from the region. No borders will be able to repel missiles fired from Arab countries. Our experience with Iraqi missiles during the Gulf war shows this to be true, he said. Peres said that we all need to change our ideas, not just on paper but on the ground.

The Israeli foreign minister said that the sixth session of talks will begin soon. We do not want to waste time. We are an elected government with a four-year term. Four years is not a long time and we do not want to waste that time because we need to start a new era in the region.

As for Israel's production of nuclear weapons and the call to stop the spread of nuclear arms in the Middle East, Peres said that the whole issue will be discussed at the Arms Control Committee of the multilateral talks, which will also discuss conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

Peres denied any differences between himself and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He said: Both of us abide

by the democratic decisions of the Labor Party. The Israeli foreign minister said that Likud lost the elections because of its internal divisions and lack of leadership. The Labor Party has avoided that. It selected Rabin to be its leader and decisionmaker. We will continue to work together.

The Israeli foreign minister denied that he has been excluded from the self-rule talks. He said that the prime minister, defense minister, and foreign minister are jointly responsible for the self- rule talks as well as the peace talks.

Concerning Rabin's visit to the United States, Peres said that the Bush-Rabin summit will focus on three matters: The transition to peace, Israeli-U.S. relations, and the loan guarantees.

Peres Meets Russian Foreign Ministry Official

TA2807103892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a meeting this morning in his office with the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk. The visitor, Viktor Posuvalyuk, handed Peres a message from Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, which our reporter says dealt with how to advance the peace process.

'Ashrawi Discusses Meeting With Russian Envoy

JN2807184292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, following her meeting with Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk, by Shim'on Aran, carried within the "With the Events" program; in East Jerusalem, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Aran] What are the main subjects discussed during your meeting with the Russian official?

['Ashrawi] The Russian official talked mainly about the change in the Israeli Government; the expectations of the Russian Government, in its capacity as a sponsor of the peace march; and the future prospects inherent in the upcoming negotiations. He also talked about the outcome and resolutions of the Damascus meeting; the need for a positive interaction of local, regional, and international factors; and the need to achieve tangible results on the ground during the negotiations.

[Aran] Did you make specific demands during your meeting with Viktor Posuvalyuk?

['Ashrawi] In fact, there were no prior demands, but the discussions clarified the need for a growing Russian role because they are working hard but not on the public level, as I have said; for activating their role as a sponsor state; and for their practical intervention in various issues, including the settlement issue and the total suspension of settlements as a good gesture from Israel and the new government, which is concerned with the requirements of peace. We also talked about the march's requirements in general and the need to translate words into deeds that can be applied on the ground.

[Aran] Dr. 'Ashrawi, the government has decided to freeze the building of settlements in the territories. How do you view this step?

['Ashrawi] This is a positive step, which is much better than expanding settlements in the occupied territories. However, the Israeli Government has not yet decided to freeze all settlement activities in the occupied territories. This is what we want. We also want this step to be comprehensive and totally legitimate. The government should stop all activities and not only some unsigned contracts.

[Aran] Dr. 'Ashrawi, the prime minister assured U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Israel would not allow representatives from East Jerusalem to participate in the peace talks. What do you say?

['Ashrawi] In my opinion, there has been a Likud objection to that. The Palestinian leadership formed its delegation and decided not to give Israel a pretext by refusing to enter into or depart from the march. But we will not accept any prior conditions on the formation of the delegation, and that the Palestinian side is totally free to amend its delegation in accordance with need and efficiency. We do not ask for a permission from Israel, the United States, or Russia to change the delegation, but we are studying facts and will consider our needs for efficiency, experience, and comprehensive representation, and we decide in light of these facts how to amend the delegation. This is an independent Palestinian decision. It is strange for the new government to adopt Likud positions, because, in my opinion, the Labor Party's positions differed totally from those of the Likud. Moreover, they ridiculed the positions of the Likud, which refused to hold negotiations with Palestinians from Jerusalem. Nor have they prior conditions. They were elected as a substitute to the Likud and because they have a brave, positive, and new policy to deal with the march. We are awaiting the implementation of this policy and the fulfillment of these promises, and we do not expect an elected, substitute government to be an extension of the previous one. They are being tested, and they should prove not only to us, but also to their people, the Israeli people, that their policy is different from the Likud's prejudiced and destructive policy.

[Aran] Regarding the upcoming bilateral negotiations, have you received any official invitation from the U.S. Administration to attend this round, which will be held in the U.S. capital of Washington?

['Ashrawi] We have not yet received any invitation. To my knowledge, the U.S. Administration will extend official invitations in the near future.

Al-Husayni's Arab Studies Center Reopened

TA2907190892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] East Jerusalem's Institute of Arab Studies headed by Faysal al-Husayni was reopened today after being closed for four years by order of the authorities. Amir Hay, our correspondent in the territories, reports that the validity of the latest closure order expired last night and a new order was not issued to the center. Our correspondent, Uri Kohen-Aharonov, reports that the heads of the center visited the campus today and made preliminary preparations to resume activity. The center had been ordered closed because it was suspected of inflammatory activity.

In reply, the office of the prime minister and defense minister said that the defense establishment did not recommend to the prime minister that the closure be continued. Our Arab affairs correspondent, Ehud Ya'ari, reports that this is yet another gesture by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Palestinians. Our correspondent adds that it is assumed that the center may serve as a headquarters for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

Mr. Rabin's office said the center will be judged by its actions in the near future, and the authorities will not hesitate to close it again if its activities violate the law and public order.

Europeans Allowed 'More Senior Status' in Talks

TA2807190292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Israel will revise its stand and allow the Europeans to be accorded to a more senior status in the multilateral talks, mainly in the Middle East Arms Control Committee. This approach is a reversal of the stand promoted by the previous government.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the new formula was endorsed today in a meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri. The formula will enhance European involvement in several phases of the peace talks.

The new approach is to be soon finalized between the prime minister and the foreign minister.

Official: Syria Should 'Bridle Hizballah'

NC2907111492 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Jul 92 p 5

["External Investigations" report by Amirah Hasan in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] After the meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo, AL-AHRAM's correspondent had numerous meetings with some of the members of the delegation that accompanied Rabin on his visit. Among them was Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Answering a question on the most important points over which Mubarak and Rabin agreed and disagreed, Sheves said, with great emotion, that he cannot believe what is happening now, especially the warm welcome the Israeli delegation received at Cairo Airport. Sheves affirmed: We need to open a new chapter in relations and the opportunity is there for the two parties—the Arabs and Israelis—to start taking the peace march seriously. Sheves warned, however, that we need to consider the fact that Rabin's government was only formed a few days ago.

Sheves said: We should not forget that Rabin started his visits abroad with Cairo, not Washington. This certainly indicates Rabin's desire for change.

I asked Sheves about Syria and the Golan Heights. He said: The talks will take place with the Palestinians and the Syrians. Therefore, Syria need not worry.

[Hasan] But Rabin gave the feeling that Syria is not important and there is nothing to be discussed with it.

[Sheves] Syria should bridle Hizballah, which is attacking Israel from Lebanese territory. However, I do not wish to discuss Syria at this time. [passage omitted]

Talks Held With Vatican on Establishing Relations

TA2907103292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] An Israeli team held talks today with senior Vatican elements. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that the Israeli team was made up of Yosef Hadas, director general of the Foreign Ministry, and the Israeli Ambassador in Rome, Avi Pazner. The talks in the Vatican dwelt on the whole complex of relations between the Vatican and Israel. It was pointed out that this is the beginning of a dialogue aimed at clarifying these relations.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA reported that today the Vatican will announce the establishment of a special joint Israeli-Vatican committee designed to bring about the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Planes Return Safely From Attacks on Hizballah

TA3007071592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] This morning, Israel Air Force planes raided Hizballah targets in Jabal Safi in Lebanon. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reports that the targets were hit and that all our planes returned safely to base.

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0700 GMT reports the following: "Israeli aircraft carried out three raids on the Iqlim al-Tuffah region this morning. No casualties have been reported. The raids were directed at Mlita and 'Ayn Bu Siwar."]

Al-Hirawi, Syria's Khaddam Meet in Zahlah

NC3007084392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] A Voice of Lebanon correspondent has learned that a high-level Lebanese-Syrian meeting took place in Zahlah yesterday. The meeting was attended by President al-Hirawi, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Major General Hikmat al-Shihabi [Syrian Army chief of staff]. The correspondent cites informed sources as saying that the talks dealt with regional affairs, especially the bilateral peace negotiations scheduled for Washington and the Arab position toward them. The discussions also dealt with the climate for the general elections in Lebanon and the subsequent redeployment of Syrian forces in Lebanon pursuant to the al-Ta'if Accord.

Al-Sulh Cited on Elections, Syrian Withdrawal

PM3007090292 Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Jul 92 p 4

[Interview with Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh by Lucien George in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh arrived in Paris Monday 28 July on a three-day official visit that was almost canceled at the last minute because his itinerary did not include a meeting with President Mitterrand. He left behind a very confused situation in his country, where two major crises are developing—one political, connected with the holding of general elections despite the opposition of the majority of Christians; the other social and economic, resulting from the steady collapse of the currency.

Before leaving the Lebanese capital—accompanied by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Finance Minister As'ad Diyab—Rashid al-Sulh told us that he decided to go ahead with his visit to Paris without knowing whether he would be able to meet with Mitterrand because he is a "great friend of France" and because "our relations with that country are very important to me."

Anticipating the anxieties of his French hosts concerning the validity of the first general election in 20 years, due to take place between 23 August and 6 September, al-Sulh said that it was "essential" to renew parliament because "the situation permits it," now that fighting among the Lebanese has stopped and the militias have disarmed. Also, he added, the government is merely honoring a pledge made when it came to power a little over two months ago.

As for the electoral law—which contravenes some aspects of the al-Taif Accord that ended the civil war (the definition of electoral boundaries, the number of deputies)—he said that it is "adapted to real conditions" and respects the amendments that parliament made to the bill submitted by the government.

Be that as it may, he gave a "solemn" assurance that the election will be "free and democratic in every sense of the word." The general strike announced last week by several Christian parties to protest the election shows, in his opinion, that the government "respects all opinions and is fully attached to democracy."

While admitting that "displaced" persons on Lebanese territory must be able to vote—"if necessary in the polling stations set up for that purpose outside their electoral districts"—al-Sulh does not envisage the same applying to Lebanese abroad, "if only for practical reasons," because they are inevitably linked to one of the 5,000 voting stations in Lebanon and it is "unrealistic" to send electoral lists from each of these stations "to every city or even every country where Lebanese communities are to be found."

He does not think that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' suggestion of sending "international observers" to monitor the elections should be taken up. "The entire international press will be there, and nowhere is it freer to observe and inform than in Lebanon. Furthermore, the embassies will be ready to set to work. Let all those people there tell what they have seen during the elections," he argued.

Will the Syrian military withdrawal envisaged by the al-Taif Accord follow the elections? Al-Sulh's reply was evasive: "The two governments will agree on solutions that can reconcile both countries' interests." The fact remains that Beirut is convinced that "some" Syrian withdrawals will follow the elections.

Having come to power following an explosion of popular rage that swept away the previous government and caused an economic crisis reflected in a sharp collapse of the Lebanese pound (one dollar is worth 1,800 pounds), two months later the prime minister finds himself in a situation in which the dollar is worth 2,000 pounds. The trade unions and the population are restless again and a warning strike is panned for Wednesday, 30 July. "It is untrue to say that we have done nothing," al-Sulh protested, pointing out that his cabinet has set a ceiling on the budget deficit (30 percent.) "We have undertaken a task of reform which has begun to bear fruit, because for the first time in 10 years our revenue this month is more than our expenditure, with a surplus of 10 billion pounds from 20 June until now." But, he added, time and perseverance are needed. Nevertheless he did announce some good news. Some 50,000 new telephone lines should be installed soon thanks to a Kuwaiti loan. The supply of electricity, still rationed, should also improve, "because we are beginning to succeed in making recalcitrant consumers pay their bills."

Though "electricity, telephones, currency, and even free elections are very important," according to al-Sulh there is an precondition for Lebanon's recovery: "Israel must give us back southern Lebanon, unconditionally, as stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 425. France has always supported us in this regard, and I

thank it. But the facts are clear: Israel attacks our south every day without anyone trying to stop it." The prime minister issued "a distress call to the whole world, including France": "If you want Lebanon to recover and regain its equilibrium, give it back its south."

Buwayz Discusses al-Ta'if, South, Elections

NC2907153992 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has reiterated in Paris that the Lebanese Government is determined to control all the Lebanese territories as soon as possible in line with the al-Ta'if Accord.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Buwayz noted differences between the Lebanese and American stands on the prevailing situation in south Lebanon, saying: We believe the situation is a result rather than a cause of the Israeli occupation. The Americans believe the Lebanese Government should work to maintain order and security in the south, he said.

Asked about the impact the recent government change in Israel will have on the situation in south Lebanon and the peace negotiations, Buwayz said: The situation today is more difficult. We are up against a government that appears to the world as positive, yet it has taken no practical positive steps, he said.

Asked whether the Lebanese delegation's talks in Paris will cover the elections, Buwayz said: Elections are a Lebanese affair. The cordial Lebanese-French relations can help us respond to any French inquiries and eventually overcome any obstacles and reassure those concerned, he added.

Interior Minister Comments on General Strike

NC3007070392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib yesterday discussed the security situation in various parts of Lebanon in light of the strike staged by the General Labor Federation. The interior minister held meetings for this purpose with Maj. Gen. Muhammad Qubrusli, director general of the Internal Security Forces, and Raymond Rufayil, director general of public security. He also kept in contact with governors and security commanders in the various governorates.

Al-Khatib said he was completely satisfied with the atmosphere that prevailed during the workers' strike, which proceeded without any security disturbances or law violations. He praised the strikers' patriotism and orderly conduct.

Answering a question regarding the government's preoccupation with the elections rather than dealing with the economic situation, al-Khatib said: The principal concerns are the national economy and the people's living conditions. The government is trying to tackle these issues. This is in addition to its preoccupation with other concerns. There is no doubt that the increased repossession of state public property and institutions, increased security, greater efficiency in collecting taxes, the further development of taxation systems, and finally the holding of the parliamentary elections will increase confidence in the state, its institutions, and its economy.

A general strike was staged in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon in response to a call by the General Labor Federation to protest the economic deterioration. Calm prevailed during the strike, and there were no incidents disturbing public security. Army and Internal Security Forces units patrolled the streets of Beirut and other areas.

Junblatt 'Suspending' Cabinet Participation

NC3007091692 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader, has announced that Minister Marwan Hamadah submitted his resignation from the government two days ago. At a news conference he held this morning, he also announced that he is suspending his participation in the cabinet until the Army is withdrawn from the National Library, the Amir Amin Palace, and the Bayt al-Din Palace.

The management and employees of the Amir Amin Palace Hotel have begun a sit-in at the hotel and are refusing to leave. The hotel management also called all employees to come to the hotel immediately and participate in the sit-in.

Hizballah Leaves al-Biqa' Barracks to Army

NC2907140892 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, July 29 (AFP)—Pro-Iranian Hizballah militants abandoned a key army barracks in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley Wednesday to make way for Lebanese troops, a Hizballah official told AFP.

Under an agreement signed with the Lebanese government Tuesday and witnessed by Syrian officers, Hizballah was meant to quit the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks by Thursday at the latest.

The official said all military equipment and furniture had been removed and fighters had withdrawn, while eyewitnesses said a checkpoint at the entrance to the barracks had been lifted and powerful spotlights switched off.

The barracks, in the ancient city of Ba'labakk, 70 kilometres (45 miles) east of Beirut, was seized by Shiite fighters in 1983 during the 16-year civil war.

It was also reported to have sheltered Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who helped set up Hizballah.

The Lebanese Government began Friday reclaiming buildings seized by militias during the war. It wants to strengthen security ahead of the general elections in August, the first in 20 years.

The army on Saturday reclaimed the Beirut headquarters of Samir Ja'ja', head of the disbanded Christian Lebanese Forces militias, and the Bayt al-Din Palace in the al-Shuf mountains controlled by Druze leader Walid Jumblatt.

Israeli Warplanes Strike Hizballah Targets

NC3007080792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The Zionist enemy renewed its attacks against the south today. According to information from the region, Israeli warplanes launched three raids on Iqlim al-Tuffah between 0810 and 0930. The planes bombarded the heights of Mlita and Jabal Safi and the environs of 'Ayn Bu Siwar. Columns of smoke were seen rising from these regions. The information says the Islamic Resistance and Lebanese Army directed antiaircraft fire at the raiding planes. It points out that the raids coincided with artillery shelling from the positions of the occupation and agents in al-Zaffatah. The shelling targeted crowded residential areas.

REUTER cited a security source as saying that two Israeli planes carried out the operation on a mountainous road linking 'Arab Salim and Mlita.

A Zionist military spokesman stressed that enemy warplanes launched a raid on Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning. The spokesman claimed that the raid was targeted at Hizballah areas, that the targets were hit, and that all planes returned safely to base.

Further on Attack

NC3007070892 Paris AFP in English 0655 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 30 (AFP) - Israeli warplanes on Thursday attacked a Hizballah stronghold in southern Lebanon, security sources said.

The raid targeted the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights, where the pro-Iranian guerrillas are dug in. It was not known if there were any casualties. Four jets fired rockets at the Hizballah positions in the third Israeli air raid on the region in a week, the sources said.

In Jerusalem, a military spokesman said Israel aircraft had attacked Hizballah strongholds in the Jabal Safi area, which was targeted in raids on Thursday and Friday last week. The Hizballah targets had been hit, he said, but did not specify if planes, helicopters or both had carried out the attack. The aircraft had returned safely to base.

The heights have strategic importance as they face the Israeli-held "security zone" along Lebanon's southern border.

Israeli warplanes have carried out 27 raids on Lebanon this year against Hizballah and Palestinian targets, leaving 44 people dead and around 100 wounded, most of them civilians, according to an AFP toll.

Iran Said To Give Hizballah $35 Million Annually

NC2707203092 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1700 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The Lebanese magazine AL-MASIRAH revealed that during his recent visit to Lebanon, Velayati, the foreign minister of the dregs of the Khomeyni regime, gave $30 million to the Lebanese Hizballah, the mercenary agents of the regime. According to the magazine, the Khomeyni regime gives $35 million annually to its Hizballah agents in Lebanon as well as extensive logistical and military assistance. The allocation of such outlandish funds and resources to the Hizballah agents of Khomeyni is part of the regime's policy of exporting the reactionary beliefs of the accursed impostor Khomeyni. These allocations are continuing despite the fact that the majority of the Iranian people are enduring terrible poverty and deprivation.

Newspapers Praise Damascus Coordination Meeting

JN2907085292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH says that the results of the talks held in Damascus by the Arab parties involved in the peace process mark a fresh qualitative shift and an upgrading of Arab solidarity, coordination, and common action required to advance present and future objectives and to formulate a new strategy. They have made the Arab position more tenable and are certain to produce better management of the political battle so as to safeguard Arab rights and interests and close the loopholes Israel looks for to split Arab ranks, to deal separately with the Arab states, and to promote partial solutions.

The Damascus sessions have pulled the rug out from under all partial or separate deals and provided a frank answer to many questions put forward by the Americans during Secretary Baker's tour. He had solicited responses to proposals put forward by Rabin's government.

The Damascus meetings have thrown the ball back into the Israeli court and stripped Rabin and his political team of any bargaining chips ahead of the sixth round of talks in Washington. Israel can now choose either to comply with international legitimacy or suffer the consequences, AL-THAWRAH concludes.

On the same subject, TISHRIN writes: The outcome of the Damascus meetings has been greeted with much relief. Arab circles also see in the principles adopted by the Damascus talks an assurance of Arab rights the Zionist entity is seeking to circumvent through statements that appear to signal a change, but in fact retain occupation and usurpation. TISHRIN notes the resentment with which Israel has reacted to the coordinative statement issued following the Damascus talks. Having realized that they stood no chance of splitting Arab ranks and creating cracks in the Arab front to promote separate deals, the new Israeli leaders are, not surprisingly, attempting to seek the postponement of the peace talks proposed by the U.S. Administration for August.

With the next round of bilateral negotiations being the litmus test, the Arabs have hastened to announce acceptance of the American proposal and are looking forward to the talks addressing all the substantive issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and promoting a fair and comprehensive settlement based on UN resolutions. It is now up to Israel's new leaders to translate their declared intentions into concrete action. The international community is waiting for them to show visible faith in and actual commitment to the peace process. Peace and occupation of Arab territory do not go together.

Foreign Minister Meets With DPRK Counterpart

JN2807185992 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry this evening, a round of talks was held between a Syrian Arab delegation under Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a DPRK delegation under Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; 'Abd-al-Wadud Atasi, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department; and Dr. Najdi al-Jazzar, chief of the International Organizations Department. On the DPRK side, the meeting was attended by Choe Su-hon, political adviser and vice minister, and Song Won-hui, director of the Foreign Ministry's Nonaligned Movement Bureau. [name and title as heard].

Discussions focused on the international situation, the situation in the Middle East, and the situation on the Korean Peninsula, as well as the role of the Nonaligned Movement, ways to promote it, and topics that will be raised at the next meeting of the movement. Discussions also dealt with bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all fields.

Talks Conclude

JN2907133492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The official talks that began yesterday between a Syrian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a DPRK delegation headed by Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign affairs minister, concluded today. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; 'Abd-al-Wadud Atasi, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Department; and Najdi al-Jazzar, chief of the International Organizations Department. On the DPRK side, the talks were attended by Choe Su-hon, political adviser and vice minister; (Song Won-hui), director of the Nonaligned Movement Department [title as heard]; and the DPRK charge d'affaires in Damascus.

During the meeting, the officials completed discussions on the nonaligned countries' summit conference, scheduled to be held in Indonesia next September, as well as the movement's role and ways of activating it. They also touched on the regional peace process and current efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace based on the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Appoints Mowlawi Mir Hamza Vice President

LD2907170692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The Press Office of the Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has reported that, in accordance with a decree issued by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, esteemed Mowlawi Mir Hamza [words indistinct], is appointed vice president and acting head of the President's Office of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Mojahedin Groups Meet, Call for Unity

LD2907213892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The latest developments and current issues in Afghanistan were discussed in a gathering today of political, scholastic, and religious personalities, officials, and representatives of all Afghan Jihad groups.

During the session, the Vali-ye Faqih's [the guardianship of the Supreme Jurisconsul] representative for Afghan affairs, Mr. Ebrahimi, expressed concern over that country's internal affairs. He stressed the need to respect the rights of all the struggling strata and groups in order to ensure social justice in the Afghan community, and called on all Mojahedin groups to endeavor to find a definite strategy and an appropriate government model that the Muslim nation would support by tolerating each other and showing self-restraint in the face of problems. He pointed out that the feudal system in Afghanistan must be eliminated and all Jihad groups must cooperate in establishing national sovereignty and strengthening the central government.

During the meeting, the representatives of the Afghan Mojahedin parties and groups, stressing the need to safeguard the unity of all Mojahedin, expressed concern over the country's internal strife and expressed the belief that any kind of power struggle is not in the interests of the groups.

The Afghan Jihad groups' representatives issued an eight point resolution at the end of the gathering today that was read by the representative of Afghan interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani. It calls for the continuation of government based on Islamic law to secure social justice and safeguard the territorial integrity. The resolution condemned any interference by foreign states in Afghanistan's internal affairs and praised the support given by Islamic governments, particularly Afghanistan's neighbors who have the largest number of Afghanistan refugees. The desire was expressed for continued assistance and support until Afghan internal affairs are improved.

India

Rao on Steps To Resolve Temple-Mosque Dispute

BK2907161592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government has taken into consideration all contingencies on the Ayodhya issue and asserted that it will succeed in finding an amicable settlement. Mr. Narasimha Rao told the Lok Sabha today that the trend is now in favor of resolving the dispute amicably and added that no party will gain by going against the trend. Replying to a marathon debate on the issue, he said a two-pronged approach will be adopted to resolve the dispute. He said a special cell is being set up in the prime minister's office in a day or two to collect all evidence and to continue the process initiated by the Chandra Shekhar government. This exercise will be completed in four months. If it does not lead to an amicable settlement, the government will take recourse to the process of adjudication. The prime minister stated that even as the first stage is underway, the government will consolidate all connected litigations for reference to a single judicial authority.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said his statement on Monday clearly reflects what transpired during his talks with the religious leaders. He expressed confidence that after four months there will be a change in the situation. The prime minister said that he has been meeting leaders of the Babri Masjid Action Committee, and the Babri Masjid Coordination Committee, and others. Some more meetings are scheduled for tonight. Observing that the government is starting on a clean slate, he said everyone has to be involved in the process. It cannot be a solo performance which, he said, is dangerous. The prime minister said giving goodwill and support, the present exercise will not fail in finding a lasting solution. He was happy that every one of the leaders had made a personal commitment to work together in this regard.

Referring to various points made by members, Mr. Narasimha Rao admitted that there are many questions that need to be answered, but said it is not the time for further clarifications. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the two-day debate in the house has provided a better idea of the issues to be covered and has in fact shortened the time-frame for the negotiations. He said he has no doubt that the religious leaders will not grudge in giving a few days more when they find the process initiated by him is on the verge of yielding results within the stipulated time-frame.

On the question of adjudication, the prime minister clarified that it is premature to say to which single judicial authority the matter can be referred to. He said the government can only request the authority to quicky dispose of the case and added that the religious leaders have agreed to this aspect.

Earlier, participating in the resumed debate, members said the gains achieved from the talks between the prime minister and the religious leaders should be consolidated.

Committee 'Ready To Consider' Solutions

BK3007034792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The All India Babri-Masjid Action Committee [AIBMAC] said it is ready to consider any proposal—either from the center or from what it called any responsible political party—to resolve the Ayodhya issue.

In a statement issued in New Delhi, the AIBMAC chairman, Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi, said that the issue should be resolved through negotiations or a court verdict, but no construction should be allowed on the disputed land. Meanwhile, the Babri-Masjid Action Committee in Karnataka has decided to call off the proposed bundh [strike] tomorrow over the issue.

In Lucknow, the special bench of the Allahabad High Court yesterday fixed the 5th of next month for hearing the advocate-general's arguments on writ petitions challenging the acquisition of 2.77 acres of land in Ayodhya. The special bench is hearing the Ram Janambhoomi Babri-Masjid case. The chief standing counsel for the Uttar Pradesh Government informed that the court will be moved to today to get the case transferred to the Apex court.

Ten 'Terrorists' Killed by Security Forces

BK3007055692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] In Punjab, one dreaded terrorist and nine other terrorists were killed in separate encounters with security forces since last night.

According to a police spokesman, the security forces killed the dreaded terrorist last night in Ludhiana. One AK-47 rifle and arms and ammunition were recovered from his possession. He was responsible for over 100 killings, the police added.

In other encounters, five militants were killed in Ludhiana, two in Jullundhur District, and one each in Ferozepur and Kapurthala Districts.

'Pakistani-Trained' Militants Arrested in Kashmir

BK2907152092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 14 Pakistan-trained militants have been arrested in the border district of Rajauri during last two days. The district superintendent of police told our Rajauri correspondent that those arrested included four of the five escaped militants who were arrested three days ago. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from their possession.

National Security Act Invoked in Nagaland

BK3007085492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The Nagaland Government has invoked the National Security Act of 1980 for a period of three months to maintain public order and essential services in the state. An official communication issued in Kohima says that special powers have been conferred on all deputy commissioners and additional deputy commissioners of Dimapur to detain persons posing a threat to security and the maintenance of essential services in the state.

Launch Vehicle 'Successfully Ground Tested'

BK2707145892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The fourth and final stage of indigenous Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV, was successfully ground tested at the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] center in Mohindergiri near Kanniyakumari yesterday. According to a press note issued by ISRO in Bangalore today, the PSLV consists of two engines of 700 kg thrust each and included full complement of avionic system.

INSAT-2A Satellite Systems Activated

BK2807151692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Major payloads of the indigenously built multipurpose satellite INSAT-2A have been switched on and are functioning satisfactorily. An official release said that the switching on of the Very High Resolution Radiometer [VHRR], the meteorological imaging, as well as the 18-c-band transponder showed an overall good performance. The achievement is considered to be a major milestone in the operation of the INSAT-2A. The VHRR instrument is commanded by the INSAT master control facility at Hassan and the first cloud cover imagery was taken at 1435 yesterday. The release also said that the remaining payloads of the two s-band high-power transponders will be switched on in the next two days. This will be of great help, especially in carrying out research and rescue operations in the seas.

Iran

Khamene'i on Propagation of Virtue Policy

LD2907133592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyn Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to gathering of ulema, clerics, Friday prayer leaders and clergymen of Tehran Province on 29 July; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At first I welcome the honorable gentlemen,

the ulema, the clerics, and the preachers who are present at this session. We take this opportunity to discuss the problems which today are related to the fate of Islam and the revolution. In the case of the 'Ashura movement there are many points. If the world of Islam and the Muslim thinkers survey that issue from various dimensions, they can find ways of Islamic life and the obligation of Muslim generations under all conditions—they will learn what caused that event and what the course of life will be.

Here one of the lessons to be learned is the important point that Hoseyn ibn 'Ali, peace be on him, at a very sensitive juncture of the history of Islam, distinguished the most important duty from other duties which had different priorities. He performed that duty; he did not make a mistake in recognizing the factor which at that time the world of Islam needed.

For all the Muslims, in all ages, one of the most vulnerable areas is when all individual members of the nation, their guides, and the distinguished members of the world of Islam make mistakes with regard to their principal duty during a particular juncture in time. They fail to realize what is the main priority to which attention must be paid and for which, if necessary, other duties must be sacrificed. [passage omitted]

There were many faithful Muslims at that time—those who wanted to perform their duties. But they could not understand their duty; they could not discern the conditions of time and they could not recognize who was their principal enemy. They used to mistake second or third rate duties for their principal duties. That was always one of the major afflictions of the world of Islam. And today, too, we are prone to be afflicted by the same malaise—we may make mistakes in our priorities. We must find out what is the main pillar on which the stability of society depends. [passage omitted]

Today, in the world of Islam, we are dutybound to prepare the Islamic people, Islamic world, and our own people to the highest degree possible. They must be aware, must recognize the enemy, must know their duties. Today, considering the formation of Islamic rule and the hoisting of the flag of Islam—an unprecedented event in the history of Islam since its early days—the Muslims have this capability. We have no right to make a mistake in recognizing the enemy today—in recognizing the direction of the onslaught. [passage omitted]

Today, just like in recent years, the fundamental enmity, the huge assault, the basic danger, come from world domination. The domination of the world by blasphemy and arrogance. This is the biggest danger threatening Islam and the Muslims. It is true that internal weaknesses of a society create the grounds for the onslaught of the enemy, however, the enemy imposes the same weaknesses on a healthy society with its means and resources. We must not make mistakes. The direction of the movement of the Islamic society must be the same today: anti-arrogance and anti-domination—which has put its claws over the world of Islam, unfortunately.

They are enemies of Islam. They are enemies of Islamic awakening. They are enemies of Islamic Iran because it is Islamic. All their efforts are intended to prevent the Islamic movement being born. Of course, the tyrannical and aggressive U.S. Government is the leader [of the enemies]. It is followed by other smaller and larger powers which have deep-rooted enmity against Islam or are scared of Islam. [crowd chants: Death to America!] They are enemies of Islamic Iran because Islamic awakening started right here. Today, Muslim people, wherever they are in this world, place their hopes on this successful movement and revolution and through this they move forward. If, God forbid, they manage to destroy Islam in this corner of the world, they will have achieved their greatest victory against the Islamic wave throughout the globe. This is the truth. We must not make a mistake in recognizing the enemy. We must not believe for one minute that the enemy has stopped its enmity against Islam and the Muslims.

Just look at what they are doing to European Muslims, to this small country in the heart of Europe. What are they doing to the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina? Thousands of human beings, thousands of civilians, are under the most difficult conditions in their own homes. If we do not say that they are encouraging and helping Serb aggressors, at least we can say that they are sitting and watching until the stronger and better armed side completely destroys that group of Muslims in that region. This is their intention. They do not want an independent Muslim country in the heart of Europe. They have forced them to emigrate. They have sown seeds of discord among them and forced them to leave their homes. They want to destroy them completely so that a Muslim entity does not remain in Europe. I have said this previously: In the future, any Muslim entity in Europe, either as a nation or as a large minority within another country poses a threat. That is why they are put under so much pressure.

We are extremely concerned about the Muslims of Bosnia- Hercegovina. They are Muslims; they are our brothers. They are a helpless minority in the middle of a collective opposed to Islam in different countries. And they face an armed community backed by a strong army which possesses advanced and modern weapons—these are the same people who for years equipped Iraq against us; it was these same Serbs in the capital city of former Yugoslavia.

We have, of course, performed our duties as far as we can towards these Muslims. The Islamic Republic has given them every kind of support but this is not enough. Muslims throughout the world of Islam should help. This is one of the manifestations of hostility towards Islam and the highest manifestation is the pressure being exerted against the Islamic Republic. Just as the holy Koran has stated and this truly is among the miracles of the Koran which states: Never will the Jews or the

Christians be satisfied with thee unless thou follow their form of religion. [quote in Arabic]

They will not be satisfied until the Muslim community stops caring for Islam. The intention is to take away that Islamic spirit; those live precepts of Islam and that vital force of Islam, from Muslims. Of course, there are a number of dead Muslims who are ignorant of the lofty contents of Islam even if they may outwardly conform to some of Islam's principles—they leave that lot alone more or less and are not hostile to them. But this is not Islam; it is not the Islam that the prophet brought. [passage omitted]

Islam means more than just sitting around and watching world events or even events inside one's own society. Awakened and alert Muslims; Muslims who use their energies to build the world in a correct way; Muslims who are not afraid of any obstacles—it is this Islam and these kinds of Muslims that are the objects of the utmost hatred of global arrogance. And we see this hatred in practice; we have seen it in a variety of forms in these past few years. Today, too, we are observing its most pronounced form in the various cultural, economic, political, and propaganda forms.

All right, today there is no military invasion against us. But during eight years of imposed war the enemy was openly fighting us. In appearance it was Iraq [fighting Iran], but behind Iraq was the United States, NATO, and all the reactionaries. We repeatedly announced that fact during the war yet many people were not ready to believe us. But now those who equipped Iraq over that period are confessing to that fact. [passage omitted]

Today that [military action] is not continuing, but other forms of invasion are being mounted with intensity. Now this Islamic society of ours must stand up against all those invasions in a lively manner, with diligence, immune to vulnerability, and full of hope. It must be ready to resist. It must be ready to hit back. [crowd chants slogans against America and counter-revolution] It must survive as a living society ready to resist. How can that be possible?

It is here that I raised the issue of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice. That is not a new issue—propagating virtue. That has always been a part of Islamic life. [passage omitted]

The survival of the Islamic Government and the continued sovereignty of the virtuous depend on the existence of the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice in society. Propagation of virtue is not confined to the simple effort of uttering a few words simply to discharge of a duty—that too with regard to vices which may not be of the most importance among vices. What does it mean when an entire society is charged with propagating virtue and prohibiting vice? When can all members of a society be propagators of virtue and deterrents to vice? It is when everybody is present, in the real sense, within the context of the problems of the country. It is when everybody is active in the society. [passage omitted]

It will not do if we confine the propagation of virtue to a limited circle—that too by known individuals— and then allow the enemy to poison minds alleging that in Iran from now on women who are not properly covered will be dealt with in such and such manner. It will not do if that very important religious duty—on which the survival of everything depends—is reduced to a limited circle in the streets of Tehran, that too with regard to a handful of women who, for instance, are not properly covered. Is that the real meaning of propagation of virtue? Is that the meaning of the presence of the faithful forces on the society's scenes?

The issue is far more important than such things. Offenses are not all the same. Offenses are not related to individuals alone. The most important of them are offenses and vices which undermine the base of the regime—to encourage people to lose hope, to dishearten the people, to portray the right as being wrong, to lead the faithful to waywardness, and to misuse various factors in the Islamic society. To help the enemy, to oppose Islamic rules and their implementation, to try to lead the faithful to corrupt ways—these are the important vices. [passage omitted]

These are vices—ethical vices, political vices, and economic vices. There is room for the prohibition of vice everywhere. A student in a learning environment, in a scientific environment, can prohibit vice. An honorable office employee [Karmand] can prohibit vice in his place of employment. A faithful trader [Kaseb] can prohibit vice at his place of work. An artist can prohibit vice with his tools of the trade. The clergy are one of the main factors of prohibition of vice and propagation of virtue in various places. We cannot limit this important religious duty to small circles. The task belongs to everyone; it does not belong to a particular group, like say, the armed forces. Of course, everyone has their own duty. In my message of thanks I said: The various strata must find their places in propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice. Everyone has a place. Where must we prohibit vice? Which vice can you confront? Which do you recognize? This is the task of the people. Of course, the ulema of faith must guide the people. They must explain qualitatively the issue of prohibition of vice. They must describe vice. Let us recognize the dangers. Let us see where the Islamic society is in danger. Let us learn from the early days of Islam. The most important duty that exists in propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice is this: The faithful forces, those which engage in propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice, those who have good intentions—all of them—they must be on the scene in the Islamic system. They must be everywhere.

Being a Hezbollah means being ready to carry out divine duties. This is valuable; this is of revolutionary value. The one with a Hezbollah spirit is preferable to the one without a hezbollah spirit everywhere in the Islamic

system. A Hezbollah manager, a Hezbollah professor, a Hezbollah commander, a Hezbollah artist, a Hezbollah writer. [sentence as heard] Let us not think that a Hezbollah is a young [man] who is rowdy, loud, and illiterate. This is not the case. There are many Hezbollahs among our specialists, our leaders, our managers, our ulema, and our professors. Let us not have the wrong impression of Hezbollahs. The presence of Hezbollah elements must be foremost in many places.

A healthy administrative apparatus can be more efficient. When can such a healthy administrative apparatus come into being for us? The answer is whenever pure, devoted elements who are Hezbollahs in the true sense of the word are effective in that administrative apparatus; whenever good managers, officials, and specialists are in charge of affairs. It should not be like it was in the past when the enemies used to argue ...[changes thought] I remember those people who used to keep arguing that we should distinguish between the faithful and the expert elements—the question was should those who are faithful be in charge of affairs or those who are experts? As if there is a natural contradiction between those who are faithful and those that are experts? What kind of talk is that?

Devoted and faithful elements, are, thanks to God, numerous at all levels 13 years after the revolution. They are in the ranks of decisionmaking; they manage society at the high level; and they are in the ranks of mulitary officials including the Guards Corps, Armed Forces, and the Basij. And as far as the masses are concerned, it is clear that our people are faithful people who have passed their tests and are not prepared to see a separation between them and Islam, between them and religion and the Koran, or between them and the Companions of the Prophet [Ahl-e Beyt]. Our nation is the first nation, which, relying on the Koran and through the slogans of Koran and Islam, was able to defeat a grand political system and defeat the United States and the world of arrogance. [crowd chants God is great; Khamene'i is the leader; death to counter- revolutionaries and zionism; death to America; death to Britain; death to the hypocrites]

We ask God to guide us in our difficult struggle in his path so that we may be able to recognize and understand our duties and responsibilities and continue to advance the paths of the prophets and imams—peace be upon them—and the revolution. [passage omitted: more slogans and prayers]

Khamene'i Appoints Media Policy-Making Council

LD2807200292 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, Tuesday appointed members of the Policy Making Council of the Radio and Television Organization (the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, IRIB.)

Members of the council are: Mohssen Doagou, Mohammad Hashemi, Mahmud Mohammadi Araqi, Mohammad Javad Larijani, Mohammad-Hassan Zoraq, Massih Mohajeri, Ataollah Mohajerani, Majid Anssari, Gholamali Haddad-Adel, Hoseyn Shariatmadari, Ahmad Pournejati, Mohammad Argani, Mohammad-Hashem Rahbari, Mohammad-Ali Zam, Iraj Shegerf Nakhaie, Seyed-Mohammad Sadr, Mahmud Abdollahi, Mehdi Faridzadeh, and Mehdi Kalhor. Head of the council continues to be Hojjat ol-Eslam Doagou.

The council shall not intervene in the administrative aspects of the radio and television network in Iran, but will be responsible solely for policy making, the leader stressed in his decree.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh on Petroleum Reserves

LD2807140992 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Iran's proven gas reserves are expected to last 400 years and the proven oil deposits for 60 years, said Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh in an interview published by the Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Tuesday.

"With the discovery of the 'Southern Pars' off-shore gas field, 80 km south of Kangan Port in the Persian Gulf, the gas reserves of the country now total 20 trillion cubic meters, making Iran the world's number two country in this regard. If Iran were to consume 50 billion cubic meters of gas annually, the country's reserves would be enough for the next 400 years", the oil minister set assured.

"As for the oilfields", he said "the latest assessments indicate that Iran's proven oil deposits total 92 billion barrels, sufficient to last the next 60 years if the country raises production to four million [mn] barrels per day (bpd). Of course, preparations for raising production to 4 mn bpd are under way," the minister added.

"We had positive achievements in the oil industry over the past three years with huge investments made in this sector. For example more than 1,200 billion [bn] rials were injected last year into oil, gas and petrochemicals. This year the figure was increased to 1,500 billion rials as a result of which some dlrs 3 bn will be earned and production capacity will reach 4.5 mn bpd," he said.

Regarding exploration activities, Aqazadeh said extensive work has been carried out on land and in coastal waters.

"We have given special priority to exploration in border regions due to certain reasons. The country's largest gas field the 'Southern Pars' contains three billion barrels of crude besides huge reserves of gas. According to initial estimates, the overall value of the deposit amounts to dlrs 200 billion", he added.

"We plan to carry out further explorations in border regions this year. Also, seismographic works in an area

measuring several thousand square kilometers in the Caspian Sea, northern Iran, will be carried out before the year ends, after which excavations for oil and gas will be done," the minister disclosed.

The first well drilled in the Caspian Sea, discovered hydrocarbons there, he said, revealing that extensive plans have been drawn up for exploration in the second five year development plan.

Aqazadeh told the daily that Iran has repaired 25 derricks and has purchased 17 others to make possible drilling of an overall depth of 300,000 meters this year.

On participation of the private sector in the oil industry, he said nine petrochemical projects have been entrusted to the private sector, and the policy will be continued in the next five-year plan.

As for collaboration with foreign countries in the oil plans, he stressed that the Constitution forbids the idea, explaining that the past experiences have proved that keeping the oil industry free of foreign investment is in the interest of the country. However, he added, the Majlis which during its past three terms ruled out foreign investments in the oil industry, is the one who decides such matters.

On achievements in the petrochemical industry, Aqazadeh dismissed claims that Iran is at least a decade behind its regional rivals in this field. In fact, he said, Iran enjoys a favourable position among regional states regarding petrochemical production especially since several petrochemical units have been put into operation.

According to the oil minister "the works are ahead of the plans, although no serious work was done in the past.

"The industry was initially limited to the joint Irano-Japan petrochemical project at Imam Khomeyni Port, and suffered heavy damage during the 1980-88 Iraqi war. However, construction of infrastructural petrochemical plants has been anticipated in the first 5-year plan.

"We hope with the start of operations at the 'Arak' petrochemical plant, surplus production would be exported and could bring us vast amounts of foreign currency after meeting the domestic demands."

He explained that dlrs. 2.5 billion have so far been injected into the petrochemical industry. The amount has been provided mainly from export of petrochemical products.

Asked to comment on why he encourages the nation to save oil derivatives for the coming winter season, Aqazadeh said oil derivatives are presently distributed sufficiently and more than the past several years. He predicted that the nation would face with no shortage of kerosene or motor oil during the winter. Several factories have started production of motor oil and there is no more need for imports. Last year, motor oil valued at dlrs. 100 million was imported.

Referring to the shortcomings in distribution of oil derivatives, he said that the daily production of kerosene this year is 5-6 million liters more than last year. However, during winter when the demand is high and distribution is difficult, the level of distribution may decline, he said and did not rule out the possibility to ration kerosene.

"Should the nation fail to save their needed kerosene for winter, the product might be rationed for two months," he added.

According to him, the daily production of kerosene in the country's refineries amounts to 21-22 million liters while the daily domestic consumption exceeds 35 million liters. Also Iran produces 44 million liters of gas oil per day but the consumption amounts to 56 million liters.

On development of gas networks, he told JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI that pre-revolution Iran had only 50,000 gas subscribers in five cities. However, the first five-year plan envisages construction of gas networks in 210 cities. Presently, there are 1.4 million subscribers and 300,000 more are to join the network in the current calendar year.

The ministry, said Aqazadeh, plans through setting into motion the second phase of the huge 'Kangan' refinery in southern Iran early next year, to increase the country's gas production to a very high level.

He also said that the factories and industrial units are to be modified so as to consume gas instead of gas oil and black oil.

Kuwait Said Ungrateful for Return of Planes

LD2907154392 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday criticized Kuwait for its refusal to pay maintenance charges to Iran for six Kuwaiti passenger planes brought to Iran by Iraqi pilots during the Persian Gulf war last January.

In its commentary 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI', referring to the repatriation of a Kuwaiti airbus plane from Mashhad on Monday, said that Kuwait showed her "ungratefulness" once again by refusing to pay charges to Iran, something which is quite common in the world.

It added that the planes, all repainted and bearing Iraqi insignia were flown to Iran by Iraqi pilots in January, 1991 and ever since they have been properly given maintenance and other services by Iranian technicians.

As soon as the Islamic Republic made sure that the airplanes belonged to Kuwait, it voiced its readiness to return them to their owners quickly, the daily said.

It recalled the hospitality accorded by Tehran to Kuwaiti refugees and officials who had fled to Iran after their country was occupied by Iraqi troops in August 1990.

"This was while Kuwait had been an accomplice of the Baghdad regime in inflicting a 1,000 billion dollar loss on Iran's economic and industrial centers, cities and civilians during the imposed war," it said.

JOMHURI-YE said charges for maintenance and repair of Kuwaiti planes looks very small when compared with the material losses Kuwait has inflicted on Iran and that bargaining over such a little amount was surprising.

However, it warned that if Kuwait continues to show ungratefulness to Iran, Tehran may stop returning the five remaining planes to that Emirate.

It added if Tehran flew back the remaining aircraft what guarantee there would be that Kuwait would pay maintenance charges to Iran.

The daily concluded by calling on officials to act thoughtfully and try to make Kuwait familiar with her duties so that she cannot exploit the tolerance of the Islamic Republic.

Paper Asks How Long Kurdish Government Can Last

NC2807145292 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 13 Jul 92 pp 12, 3

[M. Mollazadeh commentary: "In Margin of First Kurdish Government"]

[Text] The first Kurdish government in Iraqi Kurdistan, headed by Fu'ad Mas'um, one of the members of the political bureau of Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has come to power. After general elections and the formation of a parliament in Iraqi Kurdistan, this is the second step by the Iraqi Kurds toward gaining a national identity. The Iraqi Government has strongly rejected this movement and has declared it illegal. Regionally, views are that the Kurdish government will not last because developments in Iraqi Kurdistan have been created by opportunities that were influenced by the West's interests after the oil war in the Persian Gulf.

The presence of Mrs. Mitterrand, the wife of the French president, in northern Iraq, coinciding with the declaration of the Kurdish government there, is explained within this context and is something that has increased doubts about whether or not the government will last. The attempt to assassinate her, using a remote-controlled bomb and which killed several of her bodyguards, has been attributed to the Baghdad government, but has not been officially confirmed. The question that arises is: Under what conditions has the Kurdish government been established and what are the possibilities for its continuation? More importantly, what will be the regional consequences of this act, considering the vast area covered by the Kurdish issue? There are no convincing answers to such questions in the current circumstances, but the assessment is that the Kurdish problem has been considered a problem apart from the security and national frameworks of regional countries. According to this assessment, the West believes that in view of the problem that it is facing it in the Iraqi Government, it should exploit the Kurdish problem. Iraqi Kurdistan is the hostage of the American-European forces known as "Poised Hammer" and will be used to settle accounts with Iraq. There are serious doubts as to whether the Iraqi Kurdistan solution is a logical solution that can be implemented or not. Baghdad's continuing existence does not depend on Iraqi Kurdistan.

It seems that the central Iraqi Government—whoever or whatever faction is at its head—will not accept a change in its geographic boundaries, whatever the conditions. Experience has shown that each time the central Iraqi Government has been weakened, unable to confront the Kurdish forces, Iraqi Kurdistan has inclined toward autonomy, but has been unable to hold onto it after the restructuring of power in Baghdad. We can still remember Shaykh Mahmud and Mulla Mustafa Barzani, who once tried to create a limited local power in some parts of Iraqi Kurdistan, but who lacked the necessary strength to safeguard and defend this rule. The Iraqi Kurds have bitter memories of foreign support and the severance of this support and these memories often appear in epic poems of the heroism of the peshmerga. This time it is not clear what their fate will be, but once this issue is viewed within the context of "Poised Hammer," there are not many reasons to believe their fate this time will be different from the past. The truth is that the United States and its European and regional allies were fed up with Saddam's excessive demands. Saddam may be at his weakest political and military position, unable to straighten himself out since his defeat in the oil war, but there are serious concerns about the result of restructuring power in Baghdad.

The United States and Europe wanted a tamed Saddam who would obey their orders like most of the Arab heads. But Saddam Husayn was more ambitious than to leave them as the sole actors on the scene and to merely spectate himself. There may be some qualms in Washington as to why, in the last days of the oil war, when Saddam Husayn was on the verge of downfall, he was not dealt with once and for all. This is a temporary feeling of regret and cannot influence the capitalists' general interests. Saddam Husayn is as irresolute a pawn as Bush in the hands of the capitalists who brought Bush to power in the White House. According to the U.S. military command, the United States turned Iraq back to the medieval age. By destroying Iraq's economic infrastructure, it proved its enmity toward the Iraqi people. Who can doubt that Saddam and Bush are not of the same character?

As for the Kurdish government in northern Iraq and to what makes its future bleak, no one can guarantee that if the United States implements the Arabic solution for ending Saddam Husayn's rule, it will not change fronts and, instead of supporting the Kurdish government, send the Iraqi Army to Kurdistan to carry out another massacre. Is there truly a practical guarantee that this will not happen? Clearly, the Kurdish forces are counting on time and on the opportunities that have arisen. On

this basis, in their official stances, they support Iraq's territorial integrity and reject any secessionist feelings. This is because of political realities, not national aspirations. All three sides—the Kurds, the Americans, and the Iraqi Government—would seem to know that the current conditions will not last. America and its allies consider Saddam Husayn to be an obstacle in their work and they can no longer trust him. On their agenda is overthrowing him and bringing in an obedient regime that will end the concern felt by the oil shaykhs. Rumors of coup plans clearly show that they need Saddam's downfall to prevent Bush from moving out of the White House.

A coup d'etat is an Arabic solution to the problem of Iraq and Saddam Husayn and, if this plan is hatched, the first loser will be the Kurdish government.

Here we must note another aspect of the covert rivalries between America and France on the two solutions—a Kurdish and an Arabic solution—to end the problem of the Baghdad government. America supports the Arabic solution, which means that by gaining Baghdad, Washington will remove one of France's major Middle Eastern markets, one that extends from the most advanced weapons to basic consumer goods. That Mitterrand sends his wife to Kurdistan behind the mask of humanitarian acts and accepts the risk of her being assassinated is not an uncalculated act. It should be viewed within the context of covert American and French rivalries. The two solutions—Arabic and Kurdish—can be a mask to hide rivalries from the world. France—possibly Europe in general—prefers the Kurdish solution; in this way the Iraqi market will not fall completely into America's hands. At least part of it can be left to Europe. The monopolistic attitude that America has displayed since the end of the oil war and since ousting Iraq from Kuwait has left Europe no room for optimism that the same will not also apply to Iraq. Because of this, France would seem to be considering a solution that is different from the one America has in mind for the future of Iraq and in which Europe possibly backs it. In its initial stages, the Kurdish government is walking on a tightrope, one end of which is held by America and the other by Europe. Whether Fu'ad Ma'sum's government will keep its balance will depend on both sides hanging on to the two ends of the rope. The other vulnerable point of the newly established government is its neighbors, who cannot agree with it because of their national interests. There is justifiable doubt that a Kurdish government—even limited in nature—in northern Iraq will, in the long run, not seriously threaten the national security of all the countries that have Kurdish minorities and will ensure the territorial integrity of Iraq under any circumstances. Apparently, the Kurdish government knows these problems and, because it does, it constantly emphasizes respecting the territorial integrity of Iraq and of all other countries and solving the Kurdish problem within the framework of their national boundaries. There is no clear proof that regional countries have been convinced by these remarks. The first Kurdish government has declared its existence in northern Iraq. Regional and international rivalries will make it very difficult for it to continue its existence.

Whether this government will exist in the long run or whether the Kurds will again become victims of their naivete and of regional conditions remains to be seen and depends on many things.

Majles Speaker Cables Cuban Counterpart

LD2807100892 Tehran IRNA in English 0613 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri sent a message of felicitation to the President of the Cuban National Assembly of People's Power Juan Escalona on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1958 revolution (July 26).

In his message, Nateq-Nuri expressed hope that mutual ties will further expand.

Central Bank May Set Up Sudan Stock Exchange

LD2807100192 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli in a meeting with Sudanese Minister of Finance and Planning 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi last night, announced Iran's readiness to help set up a stock exchange in Khartoum and train Sudanese in the banking sector.

Adeli also outlined credit facilities for purchase of oil and the procedure of payment.

Hamdi appreciated President Rafsanjani's support for Sudan and briefed Adeli over the economic development projects in his country.

He called for continuation of Iran's assistance in the field of oil exploration, setting up a stock exchange, training bank personnel and increasing bilateral trade exchanges especially in oil, meat, livestock and agricultural products.

Hamdi forms part of a high-ranking delegation led by member of Sudan's revolutionary Council for National Salvation which arrived here last Saturday.

Kazakh Minister Urges Expanded Trade Cooperation

LD2807171392 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, July 28, IRNA—Kazakh Minister of Natural Resources Kanat Torapov [name as received] in a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Alma Ata Rasoul Islami called for expansion of trade cooperation between the two countries.

Islami in reply said, "grounds for mutual cooperation are vast and the Islamic Republic Iran is willing to export consumer goods to Kazakhstan and buy commodities in return."

Torapov stressed on speeding up the business transactions between Tehran and Alma-Ata.

In a separate meeting with Islami, Kazakh Minister of Culture Yerkegaliy Rakhmadiyev, called for admission of his country's students to art academies in Iran.

Rakhmadiyev hoping that Islamic Iran would hold an art festival in Alma-Ata, said Iran and Kazakhstan share a common culture and historical background which should be further exchanged.

South Korean Envoy Calls for Boosting Ties

LD2807172992 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—South Korean Ambassador to Tehran Sang Yul Lee [name as received] here today talked about parliamentary cooperation with Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Majles Mohammad Javad Larijani. Lee surveyed avenues of boosting Tehran-Seoul relations as well as Iran's economic policies.

Larijani expressed Iran's readiness to upgrade relations with South Korea.

Pakistan

Opposition Reportedly Cancels Sindh Rally

BK2907142892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Karachi, July 29 (AFP)—Pakistan's opposition People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) has called off a mass rally scheduled for Thursday, citing an alleged government conspiracy to sabotage the protest in the southern province of Sindh.

"We are postponing the rally, because the government has hatched a sinister conspiracy to create violence through trained saboteurs," PDA leader Senator Iqbal Haider announced at a hurriedly called news conference here Wednesday.

Despite a ban on public meetings, former premier Benazir Bhutto together with top PDA leaders were to have addressed the rally—aimed at forcing the Sindh Government's dismissal.

Haider alleged that some 800 PDA activists had been arrested in various parts of the province.

Tension had been mounting here and in several other cities after the authorities imposed the ban on public meetings and police and paramilitary patrols had been intensified.

President Receives Indonesian Special Envoy

BK2907152492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has underscored the obligation of nonaligned countries to raise their collective voice against the violation of its principles in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He was talking to the special envoy of the Indonesian president, Mr. Suparjo Rustam, in Islamabad today. The president regretted that the movement has so far not reacted the way it should have to the naked violation by one of its founding members of such sacrosanct principles as respect for territorial integrity, nonaggression, and noninterference. If NAM [Nonaligned Movement] fails to defend its own fundamental values, it would lose credibility in the eyes of those whose interests it is supposed to profess.

Mr. Suparjo Rustam also had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, at the prime minister's secretariat today. He delivered an invitation letter to the prime minister from the president of Indonesia for attending the summit of NAM, commencing in Jakarta from 1st of September. The Indonesian envoy also conveyed greetings and good wishes from President Suharto to the prime minister. Matters relating to mutual and bilateral interest also came under discussion during the meeting. Minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, and the ambassador of Indonesia were present at the meeting.

Spokesman Denies Planned Purchase of Russian Arms

BK3007095592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Jul 92 p 12

[Text] Islamabad: A foreign office spokesman has termed as purely speculative a news item which appeared in a section of press Wednesday about Pakistan's intension to purchase military hardware including modern military aircraft from Russia.

Briefing newsmen, the spokesman said that the governments of Pakistan and Russia are presently in touch with each other through diplomatic channels to finalise the dates for the forthcoming visit of Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki to Moscow. This is also not true that the deal to purchase military hardware from Moscow will be finalised during Zaki's visit, he added.

Responding to a question, the spokesman hoped that Zaki's visit to Moscow will take place in near future.

The spokesman also denied that Pakistan and Afghanistan have entered into any military or a bilateral security treaty.

The spokesman, however, did not offer any comment when his attention was drawn towards a statement made by Lt Gen (Retd) Hameed Gul Tuesday that "the Afghans will help Pakistan in big way if India launched an aggression against Pakistan."—PPI [Pakistan Press International]

Minister Stresses Research in Defense Industry

BK2807144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, has said research and development facilities in the country are a prerequisite for indigenization of the defense industry.

Addressing a meeting at the Defense and Technology Organization Lab at Chaddar, near Islamabad, he said wars in the modern age are no more the game of numbers. It is sophisticated scientific and technological development attained by a country which decides the fate of nations during wars. Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said to ensure respectable national survival, the country will have to lay emphasis both on strong defense and economic welfare of the people as one is not sustainable without the other.

Sri Lanka

Freedom Party Leader Vows To Protect Unity

BK2607093692 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0650 GMT 26 Jul 92

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Jul (LANKAPUVATH)—Amidst reports of fresh leadership disputes in the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] its leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike charged Saturday [25 July] there appeared to be a concerted effort among certain disgruntled elements to destroy the unity of the SLFP and to disrupt the growing understanding being achieved by the opposition parties in the face of island-wide protests by the masses against the government.

Mrs. Bandaranaike in a statement accused UNP [United National Party] elements of conspiring with elements within the SLFP and with other reactionaries to achieve sinister aims.

She said these elements were causing splits within the SLFP and breaking party unity and weakening the common understanding among opposition parties.

The SLFP leader accused these 'reactionary elements' of trying to create conditions for the resurgence of a violent youth uprising in the south as has happened in the north.

She said her opponents within and outside were branding the SLFP as a communal party and conspiring to remove her from the field of active politics.

"The public would not know, not be able to identify the people who are engaged in disrupting party unity, breaking up solidarity moves within the opposition, under the pretext of providing leadership to the anti-government forces, the statement said. [no end of quotes as received]

Mrs. Bandaranaike said she had watched the activities of those elements for sometime and she now saw the inherent danger of allowing this situation to continue.

She expressed the view that those who were now engaged in serving the interests of the UNP because they enjoyed various material benefits and advantages should be thoroughly unmasked.

Mrs. Bandaranaike vowed to take positive steps to protect the unity of the SLFP, enforce party discipline and to unify all anti-UNP forces.

Soldiers, Policemen Killed in LTTE Attacks

BK2907091492 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0625 GMT 29 Jul 92

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Nineteen soldiers and twelve policemen were killed in separate LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks Wednesday [29 July] morning in Sri Lanka's eastern Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts.

Eighteen soldiers and eight policemen were killed when terrorists in strength attacked a combined security forces/police route clearing party with machine guns, small arms and rocket propelled grenades Wednesday morning at a point between Navaladi and Meeyankulam in the Batticaloa District.

A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command [JOC] told LANKAPUVATH that six soldiers and two policemen were also wounded in the terrorist attack at 0830 hours (local time).

The JOC spokesman said troops and policemen had retaliated and there was a firefight which continued for about 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, four policemen and a member of a guard battalion were killed and two policemen wounded, when a group of approximately 100 terrorists attacked the Sambalathive and Athimotte police posts in the Trincomalee District in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The JOC spokesman said that the two police posts were located 800 metres apart. The incident occurred at 0100 hours (local time). Terrorist casualties are not known at present.